



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regional Analysis Document





Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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From Commitment to Action: Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regional Analysis Document

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In memory of Carmen de la Cruz

On behalf of UNDP and UN Women, we want to use the space provided by this joint publication to honor the memory of Carmen de la Cruz, who left an immense legacy during her work in both agencies and an indelible mark on the people who worked with her.

Throughout her life, Carmen have been a strong advocate for women's rights, gender equality and human development. She had more than 20 years of working experience in development cooperation and humanitarian action in conflict and post-conflict contexts in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Between 2003 and 2006, she served as Latin American Adviser to the UNIFEM Peace and Security Programme and during that period she was part of the technical team that implemented the human rights approach in the United Nations Agencies and their counterparts in Colombia. The important task of Carmen in Colombia allowed to lay the foundations of UNIFEM work, the entity that preceded UN Women, in peace and security themes with a gender perspective. In this position, she helped to make visible the differential impact of the conflict on women and their key role in the construction of peace.

Demonstrating her enormous commitment to women's rights, she also contributed to the inclusion of the gender approach in UN agencies, such as the RBLAC Regional Center in Panama, as Team Leader for the Gender Cluster. From 2009 to 2013, she worked intensively on gender issues, leaving an immense legacy of innovative and relevant policies to the entire region. During her work with UNDP, she also contributed to the production of knowledge through the development of key works such as "Gender, Rights and Human Development".

We will remember Carmen de la Cruz as an extraordinary woman whose work has been essential for the advancement of women's rights in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the world.

This publication was produced by the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, (UN Women).

The report identifies the progress made in institutional approaches to tackling violence against women in the region and will contribute to the knowledge base on implementation of national policies and plans and will be an important resource for many countries in the process of formulating, implementing and evaluating their own public policies and plans. It additionally presents promising experiences developed by some states in the areas of prevention; care; punishment; and reparation of violence against women and provides recommendations to address the critical bottlenecks persisting in responses to violence against women in the region.

The report is based on responses from 33 countries to a questionnaire oriented toward the national mechanisms for women's advancement and bilateral interviews with some of their representatives, carried out during 2014 and 2015, in addition to revision of secondary sources of information. The countries that contributed to the research are: Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Plurinational state of Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominica; Ecuador; El Salvador; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Jamaica; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Dominican Republic; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Saint Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

We are grateful for the important support from public institutions, social organizations and academic centres that offered valuable information for the production of this report. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the support and interest from the mechanisms for the advancement of women in the 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries that were subject to the research, without which the study would not have taken place.

The lead researcher for this study was Sebastian Essayag. The technical coordination team was comprised of Eugenia Piza-López, Head of the Gender Area of UNDP Regional Centre LAC; Adriana Quiñones, Regional Advisor on Ending Gender Violence Against Women in the UN Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Esperanza Franco Rodríguez, UNDP Citizen Security and Gender Specialist. Esperanza Franco Rodríguez coordinated this process with support from Lorena Mellado, UNDP Citizen Security Programme Analyst.

Special thanks to the external experts who reviewed this document, Alejandra Valdés, Coordinator for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean in the ECLAC Gender Affairs Division and Ana Carcedo, President, Feminist Centre for Information and Action CEFEMINA.

We are additionally appreciative for the collaboration of UNDP and UN Women colleagues, especially Rebeca Arias, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Guatemala and Christine Arab, UN Women Multi-Country representative for the Caribbean. At the UNDP Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, we are grateful to Daniel Luz, Regional Citizen Security Advisor; Juliet Solomon, Citizen Security Specialist for the Caribbean; and Malena Botello, Associate for Gender Programmes. We are also appreciative for the collaboration of Neus Bernabeu, Gender and Youth Regional Advisor at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) y Nuria Lopez.

Finally, we are grateful to the gender and citizen security focal points in UNDP Country Offices and the UN Women focal points on ending violence against women in the region, who reviewed the national reports prior to the preparation of this report.

Foreword

Despite the bold advances in response to violence against women and girls in Latin American and Caribbean States, this scourge continues to pose a serious threat to human rights, public health, citizen security and physical, political and economic autonomy of women in the region. The levels of violence against women faced in Latin America and the Caribbean are unacceptable. The region has the highest rate of non-couples related sexual violence in the world and the second highest rate of violence by partners or ex-partners (WHO, 2013); 3 of the 10 countries with the highest rates of violence against women and girls are in the Caribbean (Caribbean HDR, UNDP, 2012); and the most radical expression of this violence, femicide/feminicide, is taking on a devastating magnitude and trend in Central America, where 2 in every 3 women murdered, are killed because of their gender (Central America HDR, UNDP, 2009).

With the new Sustainable Development Goals Agenda (SDGs) and the 2030 development agenda, countries have committed to ending violence against women and girls as a priority. Reduction of violence against women is a catalytic factor for achieving the SDGs and is fundamental for achieving peace, economic productivity, rights, justice and social cohesion (goals 5 and 16).

Twenty-two years after the states signed the Inter American Convention of Belém do Pará, Latin America and the Caribbean has become an advanced region in terms of legislation and policies for addressing violence against women. Almost all countries have national plans to end gender violence, 15 of which are specific to violence against women. 27% of the countries have enacted “second generation” or comprehensive laws, which widen the scope of violence manifestations (physical, psychological, sexual, economic or patrimonial, obstetric, symbolic, media, etc.) in the private and public spheres. Some of these relate to considering age, sexual and ethnic diversity of women, emphasize comprehensive care and establish more measures for protection and action in cases of non-compliance. Another important aspect of the comprehensive laws is that they recognize a clear State responsibility, by action or omission, and assign the competencies of different actors and law enforcement officials with higher precision. Another great breakthrough is that 16 countries in the region have criminalized femicide/feminicide.

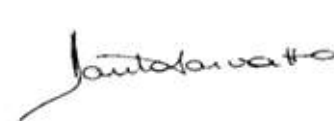
These achievements are important but **there is still need for a qualitative leap**, as reflected in the title of this report, *From Commitment to Action*. Public institutions, feminist and women’s civil society organisations undertake strenuous efforts to overcome the challenges to effective legislation and policy implementation aimed at preventing, punishing and ending violence against women.

The weakness of the coordination mechanisms, technical capacities and information systems; the lack of coherence between legal instruments and policies; and the insufficient allocation of financial resources are some of the critical bottlenecks that hinder the achievement of better results in public actions. **The magnitude of the problem requires states to take a more holistic institutional approach; more comprehensive and with more resources.**

UNDP’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women, have decided to promote this research within the framework of the Secretary General’s Campaign “Unite to End Violence Against Women”.

In addition to presenting the lessons learned in the implementation of national policies and plans aimed at ending violence against women, the report highlights 29 promising experiences of States in the areas of prevention, care, punishment and reparation.

We hope that this comparative regional analysis “From Commitment to Action: Policies to end violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean”, offers useful information to the various countries; facilitates the exchange of new effective and successful interventions; and ultimately contributes to the fulfilment of the international commitments signed/adopted by countries for a life free of violence for women.



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1. Introduction

Violence against women is a serious social problem of great concern in the world and a flagrant violation of human rights. According to a 2013 study by the World Health Organization, globally, 35% of women have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence by their partners or of sexual violence from other people other than their partners and almost a third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence of their partners. According to the data updated in December 2014, the total number of female homicides (femicides or feminicides) in the region has risen to 1906 cases (ECLAC)¹ and, according to data from 2013, 38% of the cases are a result of domestic violence (WHO)². Likewise, 2 out of 3 women are killed in Central America for being women and in 1 of every 2 cases; the assassin is the partner or former partner (PAHO 2012)³.

It is obvious that violence against women "(...) knows no cultural, geographical or social economic boundaries. Worldwide, one in three women is subjected to physical or sexual violence at a certain point in their life, in ways that range from rape and domestic violence to bullying and harassment at work and on the internet. This year alone (2015), more than 200 girls were abducted in Nigeria; we have seen graphic proof of rape and sexual slavery of Iraqi women during the conflict; two Indian girls were raped, killed and hanged from a tree; and in the United States there have been high profile cases of sexual violence in sports teams and university campuses. Women and girls are victims of violent acts in all countries and neighbourhoods, but these crimes are often hidden and not reported" (Message of the United Nations Secretary General on the International Day for Ending Violence Against Women on 25th November, 2015).

These alarming figures show that violence against women is a global pandemic, which should be a concern for all of us, especially to States. Countries globally in general, and, in particular, those in Latin America and the Caribbean, have taken different trajectories to address violence against women. Whereas States have enacted laws to protect women's rights in the realm of domestic violence, very few to date have legislated on the multiple manifestations of violence against women perpetrated in the public domain. More than half of the countries in the region have categorized femicide or feminicide as a crime: 14 countries in the region have passed laws or amendments to the penal code⁴ (Brazil, Chile, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic) and 2 (Argentina and the Bol. Rep. Of Venezuela) have legally classified aggravated homicide for gender reasons (ECLAC, 2016)⁵. It is true that the vast majority of countries in the region have developed policies and/or national plans to regulate laws and implement them, but

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1. The data is updated to December 2014 according to the available information in the 17 countries of the region, and include Colombia with only passion related homicides (Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, March 2016).

2. World estimates of violence against women, WHO 2013.

3. Violence against women in Latin America: A comparative analysis of 12 countries (PAHO, 2014).

4. See Table 5. Femicide or feminicide laws, by sub region, country and year of approval.

5. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, March 2016.

there are still important, daunting challenges in the region to achieve a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable state approach to this problem. From 1st January 2016, policies and/or national plans to tackle violence against women should take into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2016), which set out to mainstream gender in the agenda for global development. One of the main objectives of this global agenda is “achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls” and the elimination of discrimination and violence against women, including the participation of men in national action plans and policies to eradicate the scourge.

In this context, between 2012 and 2013, the UNDP Gender Area of the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Regional UN Women Office and the Millennium Development Goals Fund, carried out the first regional mapping of policies and/or national action plans to combat violence against women in the 32 countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Region⁶, the resulting analysis culminated in the publication titled *“The Commitment of States: National Plans and Policies to End Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean”* (UNDP, UN WOMEN, 2013). The publication is a highly valued technical and political tool to enable states to meet the goal of eradicating violence against women and a valued contribution to the achievement of Objectives 1 and 2 of Pillar 2 - “Stop Impunity” - of the Latin American and Caribbean chapter of the Secretary General’s Campaign: Unite to End Violence Against Women⁷. Against this background and with the aim of identifying, monitoring and sharing advances, in 2014 the Gender Area and the Governance and Peace

Area of the UNDP Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean started the process of updating the aforementioned regional mapping, (now in 33 countries of the region, since Cuba joins the 32 countries that formed the initial sample).

In addition to identifying the progress made by different countries from the previous research, this new comparative analysis document has the overall objective of identifying progress in institutional approaches to tackling violence against women and/or gender. Similar to the 2013 regional research, the 2015 study takes a qualitative approach. In order to conduct the new regional mapping, two qualitative research techniques were employed, an important input for the current analysis document. The first phase was guided by the analysis of secondary data sources, mainly policies and/or national plans which address violence against women; legal instruments of the countries involved; the responses sent by the Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women from the national questionnaires distributed by UNDP between 2014 and 2015 for the updating of the information and other studies and research, among other sources. In the second phase, in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants from the Institutional Mechanisms for the advancement of women in 15 of the 33 countries (45%). The analysis of primary and secondary data sources forms the basic inputs for the preparation of the country reports, which comprise the new regional mapping of policies and/or national plans to address violence against women.

The current regional analysis document is focused on the progress made by countries in the region between 2013 and 2016 (the two phases of regional survey)⁸ in regard to the en-

actment of legislation addressing violence against women and/or gender; the development of policies and/or national plans to operationalize the existing policy frameworks in this area; consistency between the national legal frameworks and public policies; strategies for the formulation, implementation and monitoring and implementation of policies and/or national action plans adopted by states; promising experiences of institutional response to intervene in the components of prevention, care, punishment and redress of violence against women, and finally, the challenges or critical huddles which hinder the policy implementation process and the clues to overcome them.

.....

6. The initial sample comprised of 32 of the 33 independent states in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with the exception of Cuba. The sample consisted the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; The Plurinational State of Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominica; Ecuador; El Salvador; Granada; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Jamaica; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Dominican Republic; Saint Kitts and Nevis; St Vincent and the Grenadines; St. Lucia; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

7. The objectives 1 and 2 of Pillar “Stop Impunity” of the Secretary General’s Campaign, Join to End Violence Against Women are the following: 1. Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls and 2. Adopt and implement national action plans of multiple sectors.

8. The first phase of the survey was carried out between September 2012 and October 2013, and the second phase was carried out between march 2014 and January 2016 (UNDP UN Women).



2. Laws on violence against women and/ or gender in the region

Since the early 90s, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have passed laws to protect and promote women's rights, although with important nuances among them. The first laws that were enacted in the region are known as "first generation"⁹. These laws establish protection measures for women with regard to violence suffered in the private sphere (family, intrafamily, domestic and intimate). The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) adopted in 1994 represents an important milestone in the area of State responsibility to address violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. By 2016, the Convention of Belém do Pará has been adopted and ratified by 32 of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States (with the exception of Cuba) (Table 1).

Article 7° of Chapter III 'Duties of States' in the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, states, "*States Parties, condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to adopt, by all means appropriate and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and end the mentioned violence and to carry out the following: c) include in their domestic legislations, penal, civil and administrative codes, as well as of other nature, which are necessary to prevent, punish and end violence against women and adopt appropriate administrative measures as the case may be.*" In line with the provisions of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, some countries in the region have made progress in the enactment of the comprehensive laws on violence against women, also known as "second generation" laws. These laws, unlike the first generation, typify the various forms of violence against women - which vary by country - which were not highlighted at the time of the adoption of the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, for example, economic or patrimonial violence, which represents a widespread problem in the region and is affecting the quality of life of the family and the economic empowerment of women. These forms of violence against women are not only perpetrated in the private sphere but also in the public domain, for example the violence orchestrated against women in the street, transportation systems, recreational spaces, education facilities, in the framework of armed conflict, as a result of migratory phenomena, among other "new criminal contexts" such as drug trafficking, or juvenile criminal gangs, which, in turn, demarcate "new territories" that are the "targets of attack" of new expressions that violence against women assumes and affects their psychophysical, emotional and economic integrity and thus limit their personal development and growth capacities and their participation in developing nations (UNDP, UN Women, 2013).

Some second-generation laws even adopt approaches that take into account the diversity of the social group of women, since they consider that violence does not affect all women in the same way. We know that some groups of women are in more vulnerable positions due to specific conditions that exacerbate violence against them: ethnicity, socioeconomic status, political ideology, sexual orientation, national or social origin, marital status, age group (girls, adolescents, adults and

.....
9. The dichotomous division between the first and second generation is adopted purely for analytical and strategic purposes. This dichotomy should not ignore the important political processes that transpired for years between each generation, in which framework the actors, mainly feminist organisations and movements, influenced state institutions to achieve major breakthroughs which range from the approval of the first legal framework, in which feminists often lost the battle of sexual violence, with the policies containing the laws of femicide and femicide to intrafamily or domestic violence laws. The 20-year struggle shaped intergenerational political processes that resulted in major changes in political culture and discourse. On the other hand, the big difference between the first and second-generation laws is that the former were almost in their totality generically neutral, formulated to address domestic and/or intrafamily violence, ignoring the existence of unequal power relations within families and between men and women. This first generation of laws was not in harmony with the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará, even though the convention had already been adopted by a large number of countries in the region. Second generation laws, on the other hand, have sought to overcome this neutrality and its approval has positively impacted addressing violence against women within the countries of the region, although with some differences among them.

Table 1. Signatory Countries to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women – ‘Convention of Belém do Pará’ (1994).

Country	Signature	Ratification
Antigua and Barbuda	-	08/12/98
Argentina	06/10/94	4/09/96
Bahamas	05/16/95	05/03/95
Barbados	05/16/95	02/08/95
Belize	11/15/96	11/25/96
Plurinational State of Bolivia	09/14/94	10/26/94
Brazil	06/09/94	11/16/95
Chile	10/17/94	10/24/96
Colombia	-	10/03/96
Costa Rica	06/09/94	07/05/95
Dominica	-	06/30/95
Dominican Republic	06/09/94	01/10/96
Ecuador	01/10/95	06/30/95
El Salvador	08/14/95	11/13/95
Grenada	-	11/29/00
Guatemala	06/24/94	01/04/95
Guyana	01/10/95	01/08/96
Haiti	-	04/07/97
Honduras	06/10/94	07/04/95
Jamaica	12/14/05	11/11/05
Mexico	06/04/95	06/19/98
Nicaragua	06/09/94	10/06/95
Panama	10/05/94	04/26/95
Paraguay	10/17/95	09/29/95
Peru	07/12/95	04/02/96
Saint Kitts and Nevis	06/09/94	03/17/95
St. Lucia	11/11/94	03/08/95
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	03/05/96	05/23/96
Suriname	-	02/19/02
Trinidad y Tobago	11/03/95	01/04/96
Uruguay	06/30/94	01/04/96
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	06/09/94	01/16/95

Source: Organization of American States, Department of international law.

old adults), level of education, place of residence (women living in urban or rural areas), being deprived of liberty, for prostitution, for living with HIV/AIDS or having a mental or physical disability, among others (*ibidem*). Additionally, second generation laws emphasize the comprehensive care of the victims/survivors and their environment through the implementation of (cardinal lines of action) prevention, care, punishment and reparation measures and, in coordination with various actors (institutional and social), ensuring gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of public policies, access to justice, research and measurement of violence against women, among other benefits.

2.1 The enactment of first generation laws in the regional context

Regional research indicates that 24 of the 33 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region (73%) exclusively rely on ‘first generation’ laws which only protect the rights of victims/survivors of domestic or intrafamily violence (Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Brazil; Costa Rica; Chile; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Jamaica; Paraguay; Peru; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay), i.e., in almost three quarters of the countries in the region. Tables 2 and 3 on pages 9 to 14 detail this regional landscape, identifying whether these laws were enacted in Latin America or the Caribbean, and if they were approved before October 2013 or after, up to January 2016, according to the two regional survey phases on policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender. The tables also present other judicial instruments, which categorize specific offenses related to violence against women, such as sexual offenses, human trafficking, harassment or sexual harassment in the workplace, abuse of adults/elderly, child pornography etc.

However, despite only having first generation laws, restricted to the domestic or household level, the above mentioned countries have made some progress – and some of them very important – in legislation to address violence against women.

- The **Brazilian** State passed Act N° 13.104 (2015) (Femicide Law), which modifies article 121° of the Penal Code (Decree-Law N° 2848 of 7th December 1940) to classify femicide as a circumstance equivalent to murder and Art.1° of Act N°8072 of 25th July 1990, to include femicide on the list of heinous crimes. Likewise, in the framework regulated by Decree N° 6347 on smuggling of migrants and illicit human trafficking, passed Decree N° 7901, which creates



Domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and violence against women

What are we talking about?

While academic literature, legal instruments, public policies (protocols, national plans, etc) and even through the media and the press, frequently use the terms “violence against women”, “gender based violence”, “domestic violence” and “intrafamily violence” interchangeably, i.e. as if they are synonyms or equivalent concepts, they certainly do not mean the same thing. Violence in a broad sense refers to any act (or threat) that causes harm or suffering, whether physical, emotional, psychological, financial or economic etc.

“**Domestic violence**” is violence perpetrated by a man or woman solely in private, usually in the home where the victim/survivor lives or resides. The special feature of this category is the private confines in which this violence is inflicted, in all its manifestations, and regardless of whether it is inflicted among families, relatives or politicians, or among people who without being family, live in the same home (same household).

“**Intrafamily violence**” refers to any expression of violence among people within a family, thus having blood or legally established kinship, regardless of whether the violence is inflicted in the private or public domain. “Domestic violence” and “intrafamily violence” can be equivalent if the violence is inflicted amongst members of the same family who also live under the same household. The aggressor and/or the victim/survivor can also be from any of the genders.

“**Gender based violence**” is defined as any form of violence inflicted against a person based on their gender identity or condition, whether male or female, both in the private and public domains. Women are often the main victims of this violence, due to the situations of inequality and discrimination in which they live. (Source: Interagency Group on Gender, s.f.)

According to the Convention of *Belém do Pará* “**violence against women**” refers to “any act or conduct based on gender, which causes death, harm or psychological suffering to women, both in the private and public domain” (Chapter 1, Article 1). Violence against women includes a multiplicity of violence manifestations, perpetrators and environments in which violence can be inflicted, either in the family, couple, community and in the public domain, including that by action, omission and inaction of the State. (Chapter 1, Article 2). “Violence against women” is only inflicted on women, because of their sex or gender, and in most cases it is perpetrated by males under a multiplicity of causes in a historically anchored “male dominated system”.

Table 2. Domestic and intrafamily violence laws (first generation laws) and other violence norms, by Country (Latin America). 2013-2016

Country	Domestic and/or Intrafamily Violence Laws ('first generation laws')	Legislation enacted between October 2013 and January 2016 (Second phase survey UNDP, UN Women)
Brazil	Law 11.340 'Maria da Penha Law' (2006) ¹⁰ Decree Nº 6347 regulating the field of illicit drug, migrant and human trafficking. (2008)	Decree Nº 7901 which creates the Tripartite Commission for Policy Coordination Against Trafficking (2013) Law Nº 13.104 (2015) (Femicide Law)
Paraguay	Law Nº 1.600 'Against Domestic Violence' (2000) ¹¹ Law Nº 4788 Comprehensive Law Against Human Trafficking (2012)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Uruguay	Law Nº 17.514 'Domestic Violence Law' (2002) ¹² Law Nº 17.815 Sexual, commercial or non commercial violence committed against children, youth or the disabled (2004) Law Nº 18.561 Sexual harassment (2009) Law Nº 18.250 on Migration (Art. 45º paragraph c establishes the grounds for denial of entry in to the country to those convicted for crimes related to human trafficking.	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Chile	Law Nº 20.066 'Intrafamily Violence Act' (2005) Law Nº 20.480, which Amends the Penal Code and Act Nº 20.066 on intrafamily violence, establishing femicide, increasing the applicable punishments to this crime and reforms norms on parricide' (2010). Law Nº 20.427 amends Law Nº 20.066, among other legal instruments and categorizes mistreatment of elderly men and women (2010). Law Nº 20.507, which 'Categorizes illegal immigrant smuggling and trafficking of people and establishes norms for its prevention and more effective criminal persecution' (2011). Penal Code (Title VII of Book 2) and Law Nº 19.617 which 'Modify the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and other legal proceedings on matters relating to the crime of rape' introducing changes in the classification of sex crimes.	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender violence and/or violence against women.
Peru	Law Nº 26.260 'Protection Act Against Family Violence' (1993) Law Nº 28.983 'Law on Equal Opportunities between Men and Women' which defines the guidelines to be followed by the Executive in developing policies, plans and programmes for prevention, care and elimination of violence in all its forms, specifically inflicted against women (2007). Law Nº 28.950 against human trafficking and the illicit smuggling of immigrants.	Law Nº 30.068 which incorporates Art. 108-B to the penal Code and amends Arts. 107, 46-B and 46-C of the Penal Code, in order to prevent, punish and end femicide (2013). Law Nº 29.819 (2011) 'Law which amends Article 107 of the Penal Code, to incorporate femicide' and on 18th July 2013 approved a new text replacing Law Nº 29.819 and considers femicide an independent crime through the enactment of Law Nº 29.990, published on the 25 of January 2013. Revokes conciliation, agreement or waivers in cases of family violence.
Belize	Sexual Offenses Act (1991) and reforms (2000, 2007) Domestic Violence Law (Domestic Violence Act) (1992, 2000, 2007) Penal Code (<i>Amendment</i>) <i>Criminal Code (Amendment) Act</i> (2000)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Costa Rica	Law Nº 8589 'Law Criminalizing Violence against Women' (2007) Law Nº 9095 Against human trafficking (2012) Law Nº 7586 Law against domestic violence (1996) and its amendment Act Nº 8925 Law Nº 8805 Law against sexual harassment in employment and teaching (1995) Law Nº 8688 (2009) Establishes the National System for the care and prevention of violence against women and intrafamily violence as a forum for deliberation, dialogue, coordination and evaluation between the National Women's Institute, decentralized ministries and civil society organizations.	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Ecuador	Law Nº 103 "Violence against Women and the family" (1995) Executive Decree Nº 1982 "Regulations of the law against violence on women and the family" (2004) Executive Decree Nº 620: Eradication of gender based violence against children, adolescents and adult women (2007). Executive Decree 1981, which states as a priority State policy combating human trafficking in all its forms and creates the commission for drafting the National Plan on trafficking. (2004)	Comprehensive Reform of the Organic Penal Code (COIP 2014)
Honduras	Decree 59-2012 'Law Against Human Trafficking' (2012). Law Against Domestic Violence Decree Nº 132-97 (1997). Reform Law Against Domestic Violence in 2005 (Decree Nº 250-2005)	Reform of the Law Against Domestic Violence in 2013 (Decree Nº 35-2013). Reform of the Law Against Domestic Violence in 2014 (Decree Nº 66-2014). Decree 23-2013 (2013), which adds the concept of femicide to the Penal Code, Title I, Crimes against Life and Physical Integrity (Articles 27 and 321 of Decree Nº 144-83 of August 23, 1983 contained in the Penal Code). Article 118 creates the femicide statute.

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the information collected from the primary and secondary sources. 2015-2016

10. For a detailed analysis of the Maria da Penha Law in Brazil, see Maria Cristina Benaevete Riquelme and Alejandra Valdes Barrientos: "Public Policies for Gender Equality: A Contribution to the Empowerment of Women", ECLAC Books, Nº 130 (LC/G.2620-P), Santiago, Chile, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2014.

11. Law Nº 1.600 raises the criminal framework for the offense of domestic violence, eliminates the requirement for reiteration (as recommended by the CEDAW Committee to the Paraguayan State), and eliminates the requirement of coexistence as pursuant to the type. Currently in plenary parliamentary procedures on a bill to punish street harassment (2015).

12. For a detailed analysis of the Maria da Penha Law in Brazil, see Maria Cristina Benaevete Riquelme and Alejandra Valdes Barrientos: "Public Policies for Gender Equality: A Contribution to the Empowerment of Women", ECLAC Books, Nº 130 (LC/G.2620-P), Santiago, Chile, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2014.

Table 3. Domestic and intrafamily violence laws (first generation laws) and other violence norms, by Country (The Caribbean) 2013-2016

Country	Domestic and/or Intrafamily Violence Laws ('first generation laws')	Legislation enacted between October 2013 and January 2016 (Second phase survey UNDP, UN Women)
Antigua and Barbuda	The Sexual Assaults Act, 1995 and its reform (2004). Domestic Violence Act (1999) Act 12 - The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act. (2010)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Bahamas	The Sexual Offences Act (1991) Domestic Violence -Protection Orders- Act) (2007). The Sexual Offences (Amended) Act) (2008) Trafficking in Persons -Prevention and Suppression- Act (2008)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Barbados	The Sexual offences Act (1993) Law on Domestic Violence (protection orders) (Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act) (1993) Transnational Crime Bill (2011)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Cuba	Penal Code (Act No 62 of 1987) in Title XI, Chapter I, Section Four, Article 302.1: "Pimping and human trafficking" Penal Code: article 298° and 300° classify rape and sexual violence. Law No 87 (1999) confirms the line of severity in the treatment of criminal offenses against the normal development of sexual relationships, family, childhood and youth.	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Dominica	The Sexual offences Act (1993) Law on Domestic Violence (protection orders) (Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act) (1993) Transnational Crime Bill (2011)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Guyana	Domestic Violence Act (1996) Sexual Offences Act (2010) amended in 2013. Criminal Offences Act (Chapter 8:01) criminalises offences against the physical, psychological and sexual integrity of persons (not specifically against women). (s/f) Combating Trafficking of Persons Act (2005)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Granada	The Employment Act (1999), based on the principle of non-discrimination, defines sexual harassment in the workplace. Domestic Violence Act (2001). The Child Protection and Adoption Act (2010) classifies domestic violence perpetrated against children; child abuse and considers as victims the children who witness acts of domestic violence. Domestic Violence Act (2010) ¹³ . The Criminal Code - Volume 1 of the Revised Laws of Grenada (revised version 1990 and amendments of 2012)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Haiti	Decree amends the regime of sexual assault (2005): Rape ceased to be an attack on honour and became a crime against humanity. This norm amends articles 269°, 278°, 279°, 280°, 281°, 282° and 283° of the Haitian Penal Code that were discriminatory against women ¹⁴ .	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.
Jamaica	The Offences against the Person Act) (1992, amended in 2009) The Domestic Violence Act (1996) and amended in 2004. Incest Punishment Act) (2006) The Sexual Offences Act (2009) Child Pornography Prevention Act (2009)	No se sancionaron nuevas leyes sobre violencia doméstica, violencia intrafamiliar, violencia de género y/o violencia contra las mujeres.
Dominican Republic	Law No 24-97 'Which introduces amendments to the Penal Code, to the Criminal Procedure Code and the Code for the Protection of Children and Youth' ¹⁵ . Law No 137-03 on smuggling migrants and illicit human trafficking (2003) Law No 136-03 which establishes the Protection System and the Fundamental Rights of Children and Youth Code (2003) Law No 88-03, which institutes reception or refugee, centres. (2003)	Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.

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13. The Domestic Violence Act of 2010 replaces the (Domestic Violence Act of 2001). Its main contributions were: i) diversification of the forms of violence; ii) State intervention in cases of violence in both the private and public domain with the regional and international legal instruments that the Grenadian State has acceded to and ratified; iii) the incorporation of interpersonal bonds now become the subject of consideration of the law, no longer restricted to marital relations but also extra marital relations; iv) expansion of the responsibilities of the police force; v) simplification of judicial proceedings; vi) expansion of protective measures for victims/survivors; and vii) increasing penalties for offenders (especially before the commission of sexual offenses); among the major reforms.

14. Article 278° of the Penal Code states that from now on "whoever commits the crime of rape or is guilty of any form of sexual assault through violence, threats, surprise or psychological pressure against another person, shall be punished with ten years of forced labour". Previously, these types of offenses were considered a crime against honour. Article 281° of the Penal Code provides that, "whoever violates morals and encourages or facilitates debauchery and corruption of the youth, toward the opposite sex under eighteen, shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to two years." And Article 270° of the Penal Code now reads: "Murder by the spouse of either sex as a whole will not be excusable if the life of the spouse who committed the murder was not perceived to be in danger at the time of the murder."

15. Act No 24-97 classifies intrafamily violence and diverse manifestations of violence against women, both in the domestic and public domain, for the first time including rape between spouses (1997). This norm should not strictly be regarded as domestic violence because there is also a specific article on violence against women: Art. 309-1. — Violence against women constitutes all actions or conduct, public or private, on account of gender, which causes harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women, through the use of physical force or psychological violence, verbal, intimidation or persecution. Art. 309-2. — Constitutes domestic or intrafamily violence all patterns of conduct through the use of physical force or psychological violence, verbal, intimidation or persecution against one or various family members or against any person who shares the household, against the spouse, ex-spouse, cohabitant or ex-cohabitant, consensual or ex-consensual partner or against the person with whom bore a child, to cause physical or psychological harm to the person or their property, by the father, mother, tutor, guardian, spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, ex-cohabitant or consensual partner, or person under whose authority, protection or care of the family is vested in.

<p>Law No 46-07 through which institute the annual campaign "16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women" (2007). Resolution No 3869 of 2006 of the Supreme Court establishes the "battered woman's syndrome" a very useful tool in handling cases of women at high risk of death by their spouses or former spouses (Source: Observatory for Gender Equality, ECLAC).</p>	<p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>The Domestic Violence Act (2000). Amended in 2005. The Offences Against the Person Act (2002) and its amendment; Criminal Law Amendment Act (2002) (which includes the concept of forced prostitution such as "seek corruption fraudulently or under the Drug Administration") The Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act (2008)</p> <p>The Domestic Violence Act (2000, 2005). Amended in 2014.</p>
<p>Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, Chap. 228, 1995). (1995)</p>	<p>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</p> <p>Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, Chap. 228, 1995). (1995)</p> <p>Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.</p>
<p>Law to Combat Domestic Violence (Law on Combating Domestic Violence) (2009) classifies physical, sexual (incest, rape and abuse), psychological and economic violence perpetrated against the spouse or toward a child or any other member of the family. The Penal Code (1911) amended in 2009, does not recognise domestic violence as a crime, however, penalises any act of violence, including that perpetrated by state agencies. It also includes forced prostitution, obstetric violence and rape within marriage. Femicide is judged as homicide or an attack or assault resulting into death. Law Prohibiting Human Trafficking (Prohibition on Trafficking in Persons Act) (2006) Law Punishing Stalking (Law on the Punishment of Stalking)</p>	<p>Saint Lucia</p> <p>Domestic Violence Act (1995) Equality of Opportunity and Treatment in Employment and Occupation Act (2000) which classifies sexual harassment as a criminal offence and establishes penalties; Revision of the Criminal Code (2003) Amended Criminal Code- Act 9 (2005) Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act (2010) although the Penal Code does not contemplate the crime of trafficking.</p> <p>Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.</p>
<p>Sexual Offences Act (2006) Summary Offences Act (2006) Offences Against the Person Act (2005) regulates all violent acts, which may endanger life or cause physical and sexual harm. Legal Aid and Advice Act (2006) establishes the obligation of the state to counsel requests by victims/survivors to have Access to legal assistance on domestic and sexual violence.</p>	<p>Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Domestic Violence Act (1999) and its amendment (2006) (Amendment by section 53 of the Police Complaints Authority Act 2006) Sexual Offences Act (2006) Summary Offences Act (2006) Offences Against the Person Act (2005) regulates all violent acts, which may endanger life or cause physical and sexual harm. Legal Aid and Advice Act (2006) establishes the obligation of the state to counsel requests by victims/survivors to have Access to legal assistance on domestic and sexual violence.</p> <p>Did not approve new laws on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and/or violence against women.</p>

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the information collected from the primary and secondary sources. 2015-2016

the Tripartite Commission for Policy Coordination Against Trafficking in 2013.

- In **Uruguay**, INMUJERES in 2014 sent the proposed alternative texts to Amend the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and the Note Positioning the National Consultative Council against Domestic Violence and the Comprehensive Protection System for Children and Adolescents against Violence to the Parliamentary Constitutional Commission to broaden the definition of domestic violence to regulate national legislation and that such reform can contemplate the gender and generational perspective.

- In **Chile**, in 2015, SENAM, initiated a review process of Act No 20.066 'Intrafamily Violence Law' (2005), through talks with the civil society and strategic sectors of the 15 regions of the country, which facilitated the identification of strengths and critical links of the aforementioned norms for the development of a proposal for legislative reform on violence against women, committed to regional and international legal instruments ratified by the Chilean government, particularly the Convention of *Belem do Par*.

- In **Peru**, Act No 30.068 (2013) was adopted, which incorporates article 108-B to the Penal Code and amends articles 107, 46-B and 46-C of the Penal Code, with the aim of preventing, punishing and eradicating femicide and Act No 29.819 (2011) which amends article 107 of the Penal Code, incorporating femicide. In July 18th, 2013 Peru approved a new text that replaces Act No 29.819 and that regards femicide as an independent crime through the enactment of Act No 29.990, published in January 2013 and eliminates conciliation, agreements or waiver in cases of family violence. On the 26th of March 2015, Act No 30.314 was officially enacted, 'Law Preventing and Punishing Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces' which establishes

the kinds of behaviour that adduce to sexual harassment and specifies obligations of regional, provincial and local governments in the prevention and punishment of sexual harassment, as well as the ministerial obligations to address this serious problem, highlighting the adequate measures to be implemented.

- In **Ecuador**, in the context of the amendment of the comprehensive Organic Penal Code, in 2014 passed a series of reforms to the legal system among which included the classification of femicide as a crime in article 141^o.

- In **Honduras**, passed the third amendment to the law against Domestic Violence in 2014, which is added to the two previous amendments, of 2005 and 2013, sanctioned by Decree No 250 of 2005 and Decree No 35 of 2013, respectively. It is important to note that this norm was translated into three indigenous languages *tawahka*, *garifuna* and *miskito* thus democratizing access to public information for all women.

- In **Panama**, on the 24th of October 2013, passed Act No 82, which adopts preventive measures against violence toward women and additionally amends the Penal Code to classify femicide and punish various expressions of violence against women. This standard represents progress in respect to Act No 38 on Domestic Violence and Child and Adolescent Abuse (2001). Progress was also made by Executive Decree No 426 of 12th August 2015, which names the Interinstitutional Commission for Regulating Act No 82, in regulation with the latter. This forms part of the commitments made by the Panamanian government in the framework of the International Agreement "to establish agreements and implement immediate preventive measures on femicides" signed on the 29th of July 2015.

As it is observable in Table 3 above, 100% of the Member States of the Caribbean Community

(CARICOM) only have first generation laws. Together, these countries represent more than half of the countries, which, at a regional level, have this type of legislation to address violence in a broad sense (58%). However, despite not having approved the second generation laws yet, the Caribbean States have made some progress legislatively and are making efforts to expand the protection measures to the victims/survivors and strengthen legal systems, especially those that entail sexual offenses. Some of the most striking examples in the sub region are detailed below.

- **Antigua and Barbuda** is currently reviewing the regulatory framework, policies and practices that deal with gender violence and violence against women at the national level and there is a draft tabled to amend the Domestic Violence Act (1999) which is expected to be debated in the 2016 Parliament.
- In 2012 **Barbados** began to review the Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act (1993), whose reforms were approved by the Cabinet ministers in 2013. The same allowed for the adoption of amore comprehensive definition of domestic violence, broadening of the categories of 'protected persons', eligibility of authorized people to lodge complaints and the expansion of the powers of the Royal Barbados Police Force which facilitated, at the end of 2013, for example, the creation of the Family Conflict Unit to strengthen police response to cases of domestic violence.
- The Parliament of **Grenada** approved a draft law on cyber crime in 2015, a new expression of violence which includes the commitment of crimes between two people through the electronic media and the internet, such as fraud, extortion, child pornography, harassment, etc.
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, smuggling and human trafficking generated debate at the parliamentary level in 2015 and various sectors of the political spectrum began drafting a bill to criminalize this offense.
- In **St. Vincent and the Grenadines** the Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, Chapter 228, 1995) did not criminalize domestic violence as it only offered protection orders to the victims/survivors and would not be invoked to protect individual rights against sexual violence, harassment and/or psychological damage. In 2015 the Grenadian Parliament approved the amendment to the Domestic Violence Act, 2015: Part I – Preliminary classifying of new crimes namely: physical abuse and threats of physical abuse; sexual abuse and threats of sexual abuse; emotional violence; verbal violence; psychological abuse; economic abuse; intimidation; harassment; stalking; damage or destruction of property; and encroachment on the property of the victim without their consent, although all remain restricted to the domestic and/or intrafamily domain.
- In 2014, the **Federated State of Saint Kitts and Nevis** made a second amendment to the Domestic Violence Act (2000), which had been amended in 2005, which classified sexual violence, rape and incest as serious crimes, provides greater protection to the victims/survivors and establishes harsher punishments for offenders.

2.2 The Enactment of Second Generation Laws in the Latin American Region

Thanks to adherence to the provisions of the Convention of Belém do Pará, political and institutional efforts, and to the commendable job of advocacy and lobbying by civil society organizations, especially the tireless struggle of women's organizations, organizations defending human rights and feminist movements, in 2016, and although with important nuances in the region, 9 of the 33 countries (27%) approved second generation laws (Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, The Plurinational State of Bolivia and Panama), representing slightly more than a quarter of the countries in the region. By adopting a holistic approach to the institutional response to violence against women, these kinds of norms are also known as 'comprehensive laws on violence against women'. It is important to note that the enactment of such laws does not annul their coexistence with first generation instruments, which were not repealed or replaced. Table 4 on pages 19 and 20 highlights the countries that have passed the second-generation laws (marked in bold) and are incorporated in the list of other legal instruments sanctioned between 2013 – 2016, which include other criminal offenses. Some of the countries in this second group also made further legislative progress between 2013 and 2016, through legislative reforms that strengthen protection measures for victims/survivors, among which are the following:

- Between 2013 and 2016, **Colombia** sanctioned a legal compendium of social relevance to advance the eradication of three new ex-

pressions of violence against women and which affects the whole Colombian society by virtue of its teachings and cruelty: Act N° 1639 (2013) through which protection measures are strengthened for the integrity of victims of acid crimes, regulated by Decree N° 1033 of 2014; Act N° 1719 (2013) which adopts measures to guarantee access to justice for the victims/survivors of sexual violence, especially sexual violence in armed conflict situations (these two laws are unique and one of a kind among the countries in the region) and the creation of the crime of feminicide as a separate offense by Act N° 1761, (Law 'Rosa Elvira Cely') 2015.

- In **Nicaragua**, approved Act N° 896 'Against Human Trafficking' (2015), an illegal activity affecting all regions of the world, particularly the Central American and Caribbean region where numerous people migrate from their countries of origin to others with better economic stability, become victims of this kind of crime that destroys the essence of people and is directed toward the most vulnerable sectors of the population of the Nicaraguan society such as children, adolescents and women.
- The **Bolivarian Rep. of Venezuela**, approved a Partial Reform of the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence, which includes the category of feminicide and incitement of suicide as extreme forms of violence (2014).
- **Mexico**, passed the National Code of Criminal Procedures, which ratifies the procedure with a human rights protection profile in the whole country (DOF 5-mar-2014); the Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination (DOF-20-mar-2014): General Law for Equality between Men and Women which regulates the imple-

mentation of permanent sensitization campaigns on equality (DOF 4-jun-2015) and Regulations of the General Law on Women's Access to a Violence Free Life, which modifies the alert procedures of Gender Violence and the Decree amending and supplementing various provisions of the Federal Penal Code of the General Law on Women's Access to a Violence Free Life (DOF 25-nov-2013).

- The **Plurinational State of Bolivia** passed Act N° 348 'General Law to guarantee women a life free of violence' in 2013 and, after 28th march 2012, became the first country in the region to have a specific law addressing and punishing acts committed against women candidates and elected in the exercise of political power (political violence) through Act N° 243 'Against political harassment and violence toward women' which expands its scope to other entities linked to the political as well as social organizations and public and private institutions.

2.3 The enactment of femicide/feminicide laws in Latin America

In regard to the progress made in the legislative recognition of femicide/feminicide, between the first and second phase of the survey, the region changed from having 12 countries with laws that criminalize this offence in 2013 (33%) to 16 countries in 2016 (48%), of which 15 passed laws or amendments to the penal codes to criminalize femicide or feminicide (Brazil, Chile, The Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and 1 (Argentina) has legally classified the crime of aggravated homicide based on gender (ECLAC, 2016) (Table 5). Therefore, almost half of the countries in the region have adapted their legal frameworks to the regional and international instruments and, above all, states are firmly responding to the high levels of impunity. According to the Secretary General's campaign, UNITE to End Violence Against Women "the approval of these laws implies that countries intend to develop criminal policies with a gender perspective that strengthen, on one hand, the strategies for persecution and punishment of those responsible for violent acts against women, and on the other, guarantee the reparation and compensation of victims. The aim is to reduce impunity so that the criminal justice system fulfils its function of special and general prevention of crime"

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16. La regulación del delito de femicidio y feminicidio en América Latina (Campana del Secretario General "UNETE para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres" (2012).

Table 4. Comprehensive laws on violence against women (second generation laws) and other violence related laws, by country 2013-2016

	Legislation enacted before October 2013 (First phase survey UNDP, UN Women)	Legislation enacted between October 2013 and January 2016 (Second phase survey UNDP, UN Women)
País	Comprehensive Laws on Violence Against Women ('second generation laws')	No aplica
Argentina	Act N° 26.485 'Comprehensive protection to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women in areas where they develop their interpersonal relations' (2009) Act N° 26.364 on the Prevention and punishment of human trafficking and victim assistance (2008) and Act N° 26.842 which amends Act N° 26.364 (2012) Act N° 26.791 Decree 2396 classifies aggravated homicide of women (2012) Act 24.417 on Protection against family violence (1994)	
Colombia	Act N° 1257 'Through which norms on the awareness, prevention and punishment of all forms of violence and discrimination against women are established, amends the Penal Code, Criminal Procedures, Act 294 of 1996 and enacts other provisions' (2008) Act N° 294, through which article 42 of the Political Constitution develops and promulgates regulations to prevent, remedy and punish intrafamily violence (1996) Act N° 599, which is issued by the Penal Code. Updates the Penal Code pertaining sexual and intrafamily violence and against women (2000) Act N° 575 of 2000, which partially amends Act 294 of 1996 (2000)	Act N° 1761 'through which the femicide crime is created as an autonomous crime and enacts other provisions (Law Rosa Elvira Cely)' (2015)
Bol. Rep. of Venezuela	Law on violence against women and the family (1998) Comprehensive Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence (2007). Organic Law against organized crime and terrorism financing (2005)	Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence. The norm understands femicide as an extreme form of gender violence, caused by hate or contempt of the conditions of a woman, which degenerates into her death, both in the public or private spheres. (2014)
El Salvador	Legislative Decree N° 902 'Law against intrafamily violence' (1996) Special Comprehensive Law for a Violence Free Life for Women (2010) Femicide is included in articles 45° and 46° of the Special Law (Decree N° 520) of 2010.	
México	General Law on Women's Access to a Life free of Violence (2007)	General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence (2007). (Last amendment published DOF 04-06-2015) General Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes of Human Trafficking and for the Protection and Assistance to the Victims of these Crimes (last amended 2014).

General Regulatory Law of Victims published in article 20° of the Political Constitution of the Independent States of Mexico (2013).
 The Refuge Law that contemplates human rights protection (2013).
 National Code of Criminal Procedures, which ratifies the procedure with a human rights protection profile in the whole country (DOF 5-mar-2014).
 Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination, which gives substantive boost through public resources to address discrimination (DOF 20-mar-2014).
 General Law for Equality between Women and Men which regulates the implementation of permanent awareness campaigns on equality (DOF 4-jun-2015).
 Regulations of the General Law for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence which modified the procedure for Gender Violence Alert (DOF 25-nov-2013).
 Decree amending and supplementing various provisions of the Federal Penal Code of the General Law for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence; of the Organic Law for the Federal Public Administration; of the Organic Law of the Attorney General of the Republic. Classification of femicide as crime at the national level (undated).

Act N° 779 'Comprehensive Law on Violence Against Women and amendments to Act N° 641 of the Penal Code' (2012) and Act 846 (amendment) (2013)
 Act N° 230 on amendments and additions to the Penal Code to prevent and punish intrafamily violence

Decree 42-2014: Regulation of Act N° 779 (2014)
 Act N° 896 'Law against human trafficking' (2015)

Nicaragua

a) **Decree N° 97-96 'Law to prevent, Punish and Eradicate Intrafamily Violence' and its regulation (Government Decision N° 831-2000)**
 b) **Decree N° 22-2008 'Law against femicide and other forms of violence against women'**
 c) Decree 09-2009. Law against sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking.

Guatemala

a) Act N° 1674 'Against Family or Domestic Violence'
 b) Act N° 263 Comprehensive Law against human trafficking and Supreme Decree N° 1486 (Regulations Act N° 263)
 c) Act N° 243 'Against harassment and political violence toward women'

Plur. State of Bolivia

Act N° 38 (2001) amending and supplementing articles to the Penal and Judicial Code on Domestic Violence and mistreatment of children and youth.
 Act N° 16 (2004) preventing and eliminating commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic.
 Penal Code (Act N° 14, 2007).
 Act N° 79 on human trafficking and related activities (2011)

Act N° 82 (2013) This law has the mandate of guaranteeing women of any age a life free of violence, protect the rights of women victims of violence in contexts of unequal power relations, as well as to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women, in fulfillment of the obligations of the state. It also amends the Penal Code to categorize femicide (Source: Latin American and Caribbean Gender Equality Observatory, ECLAC, 2016).

Panama

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the information collected from the primary and secondary sources 2015-2016.

Table 5. Femicide or Femicide Laws by sub region, country and year of enactment

N°	Sub region	Country	Year	Femicide or femicide legislation
1	Southern Cone	Argentina	2012	Act N° 26.791. Incorporates into the Penal Code the criminal offense of aggravated homicide for gender reasons.
2	Southern Cone	Brazil	2015	Act N° 13.104 Which criminalizes femicide in the Penal Code
3	Andean	Colombia	2015	Act N° 1761 ' Which creates the crime of femicide as an independent crime and creates other provision (Rosa Elvira Cely Act)'. Act N° 8589 'Law Criminalizing Violence against Women' defines femicide and incorporates the judicial category of intimate femicide.
4	Central America	Costa Rica	2007	Act N° 20.480 which criminalizes femicide and intimate femicide in the Penal Code (Art. 390)
5	Southern Cone	Chile	2010	Comprehensive Organic Penal Code (COIP), which criminalizes femicide in the Penal Code.
6	Andean	Ecuador	2014	Decree N° 520 Comprehensive Special Law for a Life Free of Violence for Women.
7	Central America	El Salvador	2012	Act N° 348, which incorporates femicide in the Penal Code (art. 7° paragraph 2).
8	Andean	Plur. State. Of Bolivia	2013	Decree N° 22-2008: Law against femicide and other forms of violence against women.
9	Central America	Guatemala	2008	Decree N° 23-2013
10	Central America	Honduras	2013	Decree amending and supplementing various provisions to the federal Penal Code (2012). In 31 of the 32 Federal Entities, the local penal codes criminalize femicide.
11	North America	Mexico	2012	Act N° 779 Comprehensive Law on Violence Against Women.
12	Central America	Nicaragua	2012	Act N° 82
13	Central America	Panama	2013	Act N° 29819
14	Andean	Peru	2011	Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence, which typifies femicide
15	Andean	Bol. Rep. of Venezuela	2014	Act N° 24-97
16	Spanish Speaking Caribbean	Dominican Republic	1997	

Source: Prepared by the authors basing on data from ECLAC (2016) and the Secretary Generals Campaign UNiTE to end violence against women (2015).



3. Policies and/or plans on violence against women and/or gender

In addition to boosting reforms of the regulatory frameworks, the *Belém do Pará* Convention encourages State parties to adopt, by all possible means and without delay, policies that are aimed at the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women (Chapter III, Article 8°). To fulfil this mandate, the signatory states have joined efforts to develop public policies and/or national plans to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women with nuances in the region. In this context, the study has identified 5 groups of countries in accordance with the type of violence addressed by the policy or national action plan: a) *Specific* national plan for the elimination of violence against women; b) National action plans on domestic violence; c) National action plans on gender violence; d) Policies or national plans that include a specific component to address violence against women and e) Without a national action plan on violence against women and/or gender. Table 6 below shows the number of countries in the region according to the type of national policy or action plan in force in 2016 and its comparison to 2013.

Table 6. Total percentage and number of countries in the region, by type of policy and/or national action plan to end violence against women and/or gender 2013-2016

Type of national action plan by type of violence	Number of Countries		Percentage		Percentage variation
	2013 (N=32)	2016 (N=33)	2013 (N=32)	2016 (N=33)	
Specific national action plans on violence against women ^a	9	15	28%	45%	66%
National action plans on domestic violence	3	3	9%	6%	0%
National action plans on gender violence	4	8	12.5%	24%	100%
National policies or plans which include a specific component to address violence (broadly)	8	6	25%	21%	-25%
Without a national action plan on violence against women and/or gender	9	2	28%	6%	-78%

Source: Prepared by the authors.

^aOfficially approved and implemented in 2016.

The first finding reveals that in 2013, 24 of the 32 countries (75%), i.e. three quarters of the region were implementing policies and/or national plans, regardless of whether they were specific plans to address violence against women or not. In 2016 the regional situation improved since **31 of the 33 countries** – including Cuba in this new report – **(94%) have national action plans**

to end violence against women and/or gender. That is to say the number of countries that have formulated policies and/or national plans in this area increased by almost 30% in three years. There is also a notable increase in the number of countries that have officially approved specific national plans to eliminate violence against women, from 9 countries in 2013 to 15 countries in 2016, i.e. an increase of 66% in respect to 2013. The most significant finding is related to the number of countries without a national action plan, regardless of the type. In 2013, the number of countries in this situation represented almost 30% of the total whereas in 2016 this percentage has reduced to 6%, implying almost 80% reduction at the regional level (-78%). The number of national action plans on domestic violence remained stable between 2013 and 2016; observe a 25% decrease of the number of countries with national policies or plans that include a specific component to address violence (broadly) and the number of countries that developed national plans to address gender based violence doubled (100%). This scenario without doubt expresses an advance in the region in terms of due diligence by the States to address violence against women, not only through the enactment of laws – a necessary condition but not sufficient –, but through the development of intersectoral, systematic planning and strategic lines of action with concrete and measurable goals oriented toward the eradication of the scourge.

3.1 Specific national action plans to end violence against women

By 2016, 15 of the 33 countries in the region (45%) have formally adopted national action plans on violence against women and are operational (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Nicaragua) and 9 of the 15 (60%) already have a second plan (Haiti, Costa Rica,



What is a national action plan to end violence against women?

A national action plan to end violence against women is a strategic programme prepared by an organization or a group of public agencies, to develop activities in the short, mid and long term to address – and as a goal, end – all manifestations of violence against women, both in the private (domestic, family, intra-family and intimate) and public domain. It is a public policy instrument based on a measurable results management model, which seeks to regulate and operationalize merely declarative laws. Due to the complexity of the problem of violence against women, basically due to its multi-causal nature, a national action plan to address this should be implemented across sectors and with an interdisciplinary approach. Usually, the formulation begins with an initial diagnostic of the causes of violence against women (environmental model), and continues with the presentation of statistics on the prevalence and incidence of the different types of violence at the international, regional and national level, which enables the development of a baseline (justification). A national action plan on violence against women needs to pay special attention to the four cardinal areas of intervention: prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of the violence against women and includes cross-cutting actions, such as capacity development, measuring violence against women, creating information systems, legislative harmonization, among others.

Honduras, Brazil, Colombia and Chile, and latter transited a national action plan to address domestic violence into a specific one to address violence against women) or are in the final phase of drafting their second plan (Guatemala, El Salvador and Brazil) (Table 7). In Guatemala, according to official sources, the Secretariat for Women in the Presidency (*SEPREM* acronym in Spanish) is undertaking inter-institutional coordination efforts in the formulation of the new PLANOVI, covering the period 2015 – 2025. In El Salvador, the Special Technical Commission (STC) plans to have the final version of the five-year plan for its final validation in the first half of 2016 and possibly officially approved by the end of this year. In all cases the national plans are tied to national policy *frameworks* (National Gender Policies, Equal Opportunity Policies, National Development Plans, etc.), which are political, technical and strategic supports and which contain a necessary consistent logic. In some cases, such as Mexico and Brazil, States have additionally formulated programmes that operationalize the strategic lines contained in the national plans.

In the case of Paraguay, the National Plan to combat violence against women 2015 – 2020, coexists with another 4 instruments of public policy at the national level which include specific modules on gender based violence and violence against women: 1. Plan on Equality

of Opportunities between Men and Women (2008-2017) which includes area VI 'a Life Free of Violence', area in which the National Plan for the Prevention and Punishment of Violence against Women (drafted in 1994) is enshrined; 2. "Paraguay for All Policy: Public Policy Proposal for Social Development (2010-2020)", formulated basing on four strategic tenets, the first of which addresses prevention, punishment, and eradication of all forms of violence based on gender and age; 3. National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2009-2013), prepared by the Ministry of Health, whose implementation timeframe was later extended to the period 2014 – 2018, and which, in chapter VI, addresses "Prevention and Care to People in Situations of Sexual Violence and Gender based Violence" and 4. National Programme for the Prevention and Comprehensive Care for Women, Children and Adolescents in Situations of Gender, Domestic and Intrafamily Based Violence (2010 – 2015) whose objective is to contribute to the prevention of gender based and intrafamily violence and provide comprehensive care to women, children and adolescents in situations of violence. Additionally, in December 2014, the Paraguayan State approved the Paraguay National Development Plan 2030 in which Gender Equality is included among the lines of action against gender-based violence in one of the Strategic tenets, N° 1. Poverty reduction and social development.

Table 7. Policies and/or specific national action plans to end violence against women, by sub region and country 2013 – 2016

Subregion	Country	National plan (2013)	National plan (2016)
Francophone Caribbean	Haiti	Second National Plan to Combat Violence Against Women (2012-2016) (<i>Plan National de lutte contre la violence faite aux femmes 2012-2016</i>) ¹⁷	
Spanish-speaking Caribbean	Dominican Republic	a) II National Plan for Equality and Gender Equity (PLANEG II) (2006-2016) b) Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Detection, Care and punishment of Violence against women and intrafamily violence (2011-2016)	
Central America	Costa Rica	National Plan for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women in Spouse and Family relations for Sexual Harassment and Rape (PLANOFI Women 2010 – 2015) ¹⁸	
Central America	El Salvador	National action plan under formulation process.	a) National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015) b) National Policy Action Plan for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015)
Central America	Guatemala	National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of intrafamily violence and violence against women (PLANOFI) (2004-2014)	
Central America	Honduras	National Plan to combat Violence against Women (2013-2022) ¹⁹	
North America	Mexico	a) National Development Plan (2007-2012) b) Comprehensive Programme to Prevent, Care, Punish and End Violence Against Women (2010-2012) c) National Development (2013-2018) d) National Programme for Equal Opportunity and Non Discrimination against Women (2013-2018) e) Comprehensive Programme to Prevent, Care, Punish and End Violence Against Women (2014-2018) f) National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes in Human Trafficking and to Protect and Assist the Victims of these Crimes (2014-2018) g) National Human Rights Programme (2013-2018) h) National Policy to Prevent, Care, Punish and End Violence against Women	

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17. National Plan to Combat Violence Against Women (*Plan National de lutte contre la violence faite aux femmes*) (2006-2011). The recent history of the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women 2006 – 2011 is the agreement celebrated in 2008 The Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Embassy of Brazil in Haiti for the prevention and protection of girls and women victims of violence in the South East Department (*Prévention et protection des filles et femmes victimes de violences dans le Département du Sud-Est*) with the double objective of preventing violence against women and strengthening the care component.

Southern Cone	Argentina	National Action Plan under formulation process.	National Action Plan for the Prevention, Care and Eradication of Violence against Women (2014-2016)
Southern Cone	Brazil	a) Second National Pact to Combat Violence Against Women (2012-2015) ²⁰	b) Women living Without Violence (<i>Mulher, Viver sem Violência</i>)
Southern Cone	Chile	National Action Plan to Prevent Intrafamily Violence (2012-2013) ²¹	National Action Plan on Violence Against Women (2014-2018)
Andean Sub region	Colombia	a) National Policy on Gender Equality b) Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Women a Life Free of Violence (CONPES 161) (2012 – 2022)	
Andean Sub region	Ecuador	National Plan for the Eradication of Gender Violence toward Children, Youth and Women (2008)	
Andean Region	Peru	a) National Development Plan (2013-2018) b) National Policy to Prevent, Care, Punish and End Violence Against Women (2009 – 2015)	a) National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015) b) National Action Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015) ²² c) National Action Plan against Violence toward Women, Children and Youth (under formulation)
Central America	Nicaragua	State Policy for Strengthening the Nicaraguan Family and Preventing Violence	2015

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18. The National Plan for Care and prevention of Violence against Women in Spouse and Family Relations for Sexual Harassment and Rape (PLANOFI Women 2010 – 2015) it is the second national action plan formulated by the state of Costa Rica.

19. National Plan to Combat Violence Against Women (2013 – 2022) it is the second national action plan formulated by Honduras. Previous: National Plan against Violence Toward Women (2006 – 2010).

20. Previous: First National Pact to Combat Violence Against women (2008 – 2011)

21. Previous: National Action Plan for the Prevention of Intrafamily Violence (2011 – 2012)

22. According to the information available as of December 2015, the National Interinstitutional Commission to Combat Violence toward Women is still in the process of elaborating a National Action Plan against Violence toward Women, Children and Youth, an instrument that will operationalize the State Policy to Strengthen the Nicaraguan family and Prevent Violence.

Southern Cone	Paraguay	a) Plan for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (2008-2017) b) Policy "Paraguay for All: Public Policy proposal for Social Development (2010-2020)" c) National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2009-2013) d) National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2014-2018 e) National Programme for the Prevention and Comprehensive care of Women, Children and Youth in Gender, Domestic and intrafamily Situations of Violence (2010 – 2015) f) National Development Plan "Paraguay 2030"	National Plan on Violence against Women 2015-2020.
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Source: Prepared by the authors.

3.2 National action plans on domestic and/or intrafamily violence

In **2 of the 33 countries, national action plans have been formulated to address domestic violence (6%)** (Guyana and Panama²³) (Table 8). In both cases, the periods of implementing the national action plans have already expired in 2016. Guyana, after amending the Sexual Offenses Act in 2013, started developing a National Action Plan to Implement Laws on Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence (2014 – 2017)²⁴, although pending official approval and the protocols for providing care to gender-based violence. In the case of Panama, there is no official information to confirm if the New National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Policies for Citizen Coexistence (2014 – 2024) have officially been approved given that the current one expired, and in which case what approach would the new plan adopt. However, the country has a Public Policy on Equal Opportunity for Women (PPIOM) which complies with Act N° 4 on Equal Opportunities for Women which includes a component for addressing violence against women and covers all public and private domains, supplemented by the objectives and functions of Act N° 71 of 2008 which creates INAMU. In 2013 the process of preparing the PPIOM Action Plan was initiated, which consists of a total of 10 areas of intervention, which inter alia, contain a number of Strategic Guidelines and Objectives. The third (3) component refers to Violence Against Women. Both national action plans alluded to, address

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 23. The National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2004 – 2010) forms part of the Strategic Guideline for Equality (LEI N° 9) for the National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights (2007 – 2011).

24. The Office of Women's Affairs, which functions under the Ministry of Works, Social Services and Social Security in Guyana, received financial and technical support from international cooperation (UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and the United Nations Trust Fund) for the formulation of the mentioned instruments. However, by December 2015 Guyana had not reported about the advances in formulation of the same.

Table 8. Policies and/or national action plans on domestic and/or intrafamily violence, by sub region and country 2013-2016

Subregion	Country	National plan (2013)	National plan (2016)
Anglophone Caribbean	Guyana	National Policy on Domestic Violence (2008 – 2013)	National Action Plan to Implement Laws on Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence (2014 – 2017) under the formulation process and/ or official approval.
Central America	Panama	a) National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Policies for Citizen Coexistence (2004-2014)	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

domestic violence through shared intergenerational, human rights and gender approaches.

3.3 National action plans on gender violence

Between 2010 and 2016, **8 of the 33 countries approved national action plans to address gender violence (24%)** (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Uruguay) (6 from the Anglophone Caribbean, one from Central America and the other from the Southern Cone) (Table 9). Belize is the only country in this group with a second national action plan on gender violence (the first one was drafted in 2007 with an implementation period that lasted until 2009) and it is in the process of formulating the third national plan which, according to official sources, is expected to cover the period 2016 – 2020. The states of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and St. Vincent and the Grenadines registered progress with respect to their 2013 state of affairs, because the three countries have already officially approved the first national plans on gender violence (Antigua and Barbuda and Bahamas in 2013 and St. Vin-

cent and the Grenadines in 2015). This set of national action plans adopt approaches of mainstreaming, human rights and gender and the Second National Gender Based Violence Plan of Action (2010 – 2013) of Belize also adopts intercultural and intergenerational approaches.

For its part, the Jamaican state has completed the second Gender-Based Violence National Strategic Action Plan (2015 – 2025), although still pending official approval. Although Grenada does not have the complete version of the National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence officially approved, in 2013 the Cabinet Ministers approved key elements of the mentioned national plan, which consist of the 'core' of the alluded to planning and allows the Division of Gender and Family Issues to guide the programmatic actions to address domestic violence and gender based violence in the country. In 2010, in Saint Kitts and Nevis a Steering Committee for Ending of Gender Based Violence was created. It is an inter-agency body in charge of the formulation of the Multisectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, which is the national action plan in effect in 2016.

Table 9. Policies and/or national action plans for gender based violence, by sub-region and country 2013-2016

Sub-region	Country	National plan (2013)	National plan (2016)
Anglophone Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	Strategic Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence (2010 – 2015)	
Anglophone Caribbean	Bahamas	National action plan under formulation process.	The Bahamas National Strategic Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence ²⁵
Anglophone Caribbean	Jamaica	a) National Policy on Gender Equality (2011-2015) b) National Development Plan (2009-2030) c) National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender Based Violence in Jamaica (2011)	
Anglophone Caribbean	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Does not have a national action plan	National on Gender Based Violence Action Plan (2015 – 2018)
Anglophone Caribbean	Grenada	National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence in Grenada ²⁶ – Key Elements.	
Central America	Belize	Second National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence (2010 – 2013)	Third National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence under formulation for the period 2016 – 2020.
Anglophone Caribbean	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Multisectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence. (2011) ²⁷ .	
Southern Cone	Uruguay	National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2004 – 2010)	Second National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2016 – 2021) under formulation.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

3.4 Policies and/or national action plans including a specific component of violence against women and/or gender violence

Also in **6 of the 33 countries (18%) of the action strategies to address violence against women and/or gender form part of a component integrated in the reception policy**, for example policies or national plans for gender, gender equity and equality or on equal opportunities (Suriname, Dominica, Cuba, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Barbados) (Table 10).

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25. The plan was formulated in 2013. The implementation period is not reported.

26. In 2013 the Cabinet Ministers only approved the strategic guidelines (key elements) of the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence in Grenada.

27. Multisectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence approved in 2010 and is still valid in 2016. 28. The National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality was officially approved in 2006 and is still in force in 2016 despite not having established a time frame for its implementation.

In Suriname, domestic and sexual violence form part of the National Policy Plan Structural Approach on Domestic Violence (2014 – 2017), valid in 2016. Until 2014 the actions to combat domestic violence were integrated in the Gender Work Plan 2013. In Dominica some forms of gender violence and especially intra-family and/or domestic and sexual offenses are tied to the National policy and Action Plan on Gender Equity and Equality. Meanwhile, in

Barbados, between 2008 and 2013, domestic violence formed part of the strategies for the National Action Plan Against HIV/AIDS (2008 – 2013). However, it would be inaccurate to suggest that violence against women is exclusively addressed in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but HIV/AIDS is a factor that exacerbates the vulnerability situation of violence against women, violence being both the cause and effect of transmission of the virus³² and, due to

Table 10. Addressing violence against women and/or gender integrated in a national reception policy and/or plan 2013-2016.

Subregion	Country	National plan (2013)	National plan (2016)
Anglophone Caribbean	Suriname	a) Integrated Gender Action Plan 2006 – 2010 b) Legal Protection and Security Plan (2006 – 2010)	National Policy Plan Structural Approach to Domestic Violence (2014 – 2017)
Anglophone Caribbean	Dominica	National Policy and Action Plan on Gender Equity and Equality ²⁸	
Spanish-speaking Caribbean	Cuba	National Action Plan to Follow-up the IV UN Conference on Women Plan (PAN) ²⁹	
Andean Region	Plur. State of Bolivia	a) National Programme to Combat Gender Based Violence (2009 – 2020) b) National Plan for Equal Opportunities: 'Women Building the New Bolivia to Live Decently' (2009 – 2020) c) National Plan to Combat Violence Against Women (2013 – 2022)	
Andean Region	Bol. Rep. of Venezuela	National Socialist Plan on the Right of Women to Lead a Life Free of Violence (2010 – 2013) ³⁰	Plan for Gender "Mamá Rosa" (2013 – 2019)
Anglophone Caribbean	Barbados	Plan Nacional de Acción contra el VIH/sida (2008-2013) (National Action Plan against HIV/AIDS 2008-2013). No posee un plan de acción nacional para el abordaje de la violencia contra las mujeres y/o de género ³¹	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

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28. The National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality was officially approved in 2006 and is still in force in 2016 despite not having established a time frame for its implementation.

29. The National Action plan to Follow-up the IV UN Conference on Women (PAN) containing Measures N° 66 and 67 on gender violence and violence against women which was formulated in 1997 and is still in force in 2016.

its high incidence in the country, violence against women was originally addressed with this instrument. However, between 2013 and 2016, Barbados has been making significant efforts in developing the National Action Plan on Gender which has a specific module on gender violence and whose preliminary draft was presented to the Gender Affairs Office under the Ministry of Social Assistance, Empowerment and Community Development in 2015. Official sources consulted confirm that the official approval of the national plan will take place in 2016.

Cuba in 1997 formulated the National Action Plan to Follow-up on the IVth UN Conference on Women (PAN) by Agreement of the State Council of the Republic of Cuba and in which they included two measures, N° 66 and N°67, aimed at *“assessing the possibility of including in the substantive criminal legislation, new acts, or accord more harsh treatment to the existing ones, to reprimand acts that threaten the family, children, youth and women in particular”*(Measure N° 66) and to *“create baselines that enable the control and disaggregation of data by age, sex and relationship of victims to the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women, and those against the normal development of children and youth”* (Measure N° 67). In every evaluation PAN incorporates issues of interest to the advancement of women, such as addressing gender based violence, intrafamily violence and other expressions of violence against women which are not contained in the existing normative framework.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Ministry of Justice approved in 2008 the National Plan for Equal Opportunities (PIO – acronym in Spanish) *“Women Building the New Bolivia to Live Decently”*(2009 -2020). One of the areas of the PIO is ‘gender based violence’ in the framework, which approved the National Programme to Combat Gender Based Violence (2009 – 2020), in force in 2016. Both public policy instruments address gender violence and adopt human rights, interculturalism and dispelling patriarchal approaches. According to the official sources of the Vice Minister for Equal Opportunities under the Ministry of Justice, in December 2015, a national action plan was being formulated to regulate Act N° 348 ‘comprehensive law to guarantee women a life free of violence’ (2013) as well as a national action plan to regulate Act N° 243 ‘Against harassment and political violence against women’ (2013).

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2010 developed the ‘Plan for the Homeland’ (Second Socialist Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the Nation 2013 – 2019) which is the basic document for strategic planning required by the National Executive at the commencement of every constitutional period of Government to build an equal and just society by promoting non discrimination and the protection of socially vulnerable groups. In the framework of the Homeland Plan, and with the aim of deepening actions to advance the achievement of gender equality and equity by 2013, the Venezuelan State elaborated the Gender Equality Plan *“Mama Rosa”*(2013 -2019) which has among its specific objectives, N° 3.6, elimination of gender violence in all its expressions.

3.5 Countries in the region without an officially approved national action plan on violence against women and/or gender

Only **2 of the 33 countries (6%) do not have an officially approved national action plan to address violence against women and/or gender** (Trinidad and Tobago and St. Lucia), both Anglophone Caribbean (Table 11).

Table 11. Countries without an officially approved national action plan on violence against women and/or gender

Subregion	Country	National plan (2013)	National plan (2016)
Anglophone Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	Without a national action plan to address violence against women and/or gender	
Anglophone Caribbean	St. Lucia	Without a national action plan to address violence against women and/or gender	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

The state of St. Lucia, received technical and financial support from UN Women under the Project framework of *“Strengthening State Accountability and Community Action to End Gender Based Violence in the Caribbean in 2010*. However, as of 2015, there is no evidence that the formulation process of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence has either been concluded or been officially approved. Meanwhile, since 2012, Trinidad and

Tobago has been undertaking institutional efforts to formulate a policy to address gender based violence and sexual violence. According to the official sources consulted, the development of the first National Strategic Action Plan on Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence was completed in September 2015, which would cover the period 2015 – 2020. However, the Cabinet has still not officially approved it according to the official sources consulted.

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30. At the time of conducting the study in 2012/2013, was still pending official approval.

31. According to official sources in 2015 had a preliminary version of the National Action Plan on Gender with official approval scheduled for 2016.

32. There is a link between violence against women and HIV/AIDS; both are considered epidemics by the Pan American Health Organization (2012). Despite the increasing feminization of the HIV/AIDS prevalence within the countries in the region, according to the first phase survey data (2013), only 7 of the 29 countries (24%) have policies and/or national plans on violence against women and/or gender and implementation protocols including specific actions for the prevention and especially care for victims/survivors of violence against women (especially sexual violence) that may have contracted the virus or well targeted strategies toward women living with HIV/AIDS and who also suffer violence. This number rises to 11 according to the provisional data of the second phase survey: Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Belize (in the latter two countries, attention to violence against women and HIV/AIDS is documented in specific action protocols in which, for example, women victims of sexual violence should receive an emergency kit containing antibiotics and antiretrovirals to prevent sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS and emergency contraception pills, as is the case in Guatemala).



4. Consistency between policies and action plans on violence against women

Of particular relevance to the aim of this current study is to investigate the consistency between regulatory frameworks and policies and/or national plans that address violence against women and/or gender in accordance to the analysis of paragraphs 2 and 3 above. In the framework of this regional research, the 'consistency' alluded to refers to the equivalence or compatibility (harmonization) between obligations mandated by laws (of the first or second generation) and the policy objectives and/or national plans, the latter being formulated and implemented to ensure effective compliance with the norms, which is the underlying legal structure. Considering consistency in the framework of this study therefore, there is need to inquire if there is a link between the definition of violence against women, the types of violence identified and the spheres (public and/or private) protected by the norms and policies and/or national plans. Table 12 shows the type of current legislation in each country and if these have consistency or not with the current national policies and/or plans.

The total number of analysed cases ($N=31$) was reduced upon examination since two countries, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, did not have officially approved national action plans by 2016. **In 14 of the 31 countries in the region (45%), the legislation was consistent with the policies and/or national plans; i.e. in almost half of all the analysed cases.** Here is an example on how to analyse Table 12. In Colombia there is consistency between Act Nº 1257 'Which establishes norms for sensitization, prevention and punishment of the forms of violence and discrimination against women, reforms the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure, Act 294 of 1996 and dictates other provisions' (2008) and the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Women Life Free of Violence (CONPES 161) (2012 – 2022) since expressions of violence against women are classified as criminal in Act Nº 1257 are approved by those addressed by CONPES 161. Additionally, in both instruments, consider the expressions of violence perpetrated against women in the public and private domain as equally recognize the 'right to a life free of violence or a culture of peace' in both instruments. The definition of violence against women that both instruments adopt, are consistent with the definition of the Convention of Belém do Pará, which the country ratified in 1996.

On the other hand, **in 17 of the 31 countries (55%) there is no observed consistency between legislation and public policies** since there is no link between the two instruments. Within these 17 countries, there are three different observable inconsistencies between the instruments: a) in 6 of the 17 cases, the comprehensive plans on violence against women coexist with domestic violence legislation (Haiti, Honduras, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Paraguay); b) 7 of the 17 countries have adopted gender violence plans which coexist with the first generation legislation, in their totality the Anglophone Caribbean Countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis) and c) 3 of the 17 countries inconsistency is favourable toward legislation because in Barbados and the Bol. Rep. of Venezuela, domestic violence laws (Barbados) and comprehensive laws (Bol. Rep. Of Venezuela) co-exist with national plans that address violence against women among its components; and in the case of Panama Law Nº 82 which adopts preventive measures on violence toward women and additionally amends the Penal Code to classify femicide and punish different expressions of violence against women, coexists with a national plan for domestic violence, which would imply inconsistency between the two instruments.

Table 12. Legislative consistency between domestic violence, intrafamily violence and violence against women existing in 2016 and policies and/national plans on domestic violence, intrafamily violence, gender based violence and violence against women existing in 2016, by country.

Country	Legislation		Policies and/or National Plans			Consistency
	DV/IFV	VAW	DV/IFV	VAW	GbV	
Haiti	x			x		NO
Dominican Rep.	x	x	x	x		YES
Costa Rica ^a	x	x	x	x		YES
El Salvador	x	x		x		YES
Guatemala ^a	x	x	x	x		YES
Honduras	x			x		NO
Mexico		x		x		YES
Argentina	x	x		x		YES
Brazil	x			x		NO
Chile	x			x		NO
Colombia	x	x		x		YES
Ecuador	x	x	x		x	YES
Peru	x			x		NO
Antigua and Barbuda	x				x	NO
Bahamas	x				x	NO
Jamaica	x				x	NO
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	x				x	NO
Grenada	x				x	NO
Belize	x				x	NO
Guyana	x		x			YES ³³
Panama	x	x	x			NO
Uruguay	x				x	NO
Suriname	x		x			YES ^b
Dominica	x				x	YES
Cuba	x				x	YES
Paraguay	x			x	x	NO
Plur. State of Bolivia	x	x		x	x	YES
Nicaragua	x ³⁴			x		YES
Bol. Rep. of Venezuela	x	x			x	NO
Barbados	x				x	NO
Saint Kitts and Nevis	x				x	NO
Saint Lucia	x		Without a policy and/or national action plan			NOT APPLICABLE
Trinidad and Tobago	x		Without a policy and/or national action plan			NOT APPLICABLE

Source: Prepared by the Authors. References: DV/IFV: Domestic Violence/Intrafamily Violence, VAW: Violence Against Women and GbV: Gender based Violence.

Therefore, in more than half of the countries of the region, it is imperative to harmonize legislation with public policies. Part of the explanation for the lack of legislative harmonization can be found in the low level hierarchy and the weak leadership in the Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, the little to no capacity to influence that they have in the political arenas of decision making (in cabinet ministries and parliamentary areas) and in the negligible joint work coordination of all sectors in the social and political contexts characterized by patriarchal and misogynistic patterns that are often resistant to promote legislative reforms of the second generation or to regulate existing laws.

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33. Prepared by the Authors. References: DV/IFV: Domestic Violence/Intrafamily Violence, VAW: Violence Against Women and GbV: Gender based Violence.

34. Act N° 846, 'Act Amending article 46 and additionally articles 30, 31 and 32 of Act N° 779, Comprehensive Law on Violence Against Women and the Reforms to Act N° 641, of the Penal Code', enacted on 25th September 2013, among other modifications, added Article 64 (bis) to Act N° 779, which provides that the same shall be regulated in conformity to the provisions of section 10 of article 150 of the Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua. Thus, through Decrees 42 and 43, of the Nicaraguan State regulate Act N° 779, both published in the Gazette N° 143 of 31st July 2014. However, it is of concern that at all points where the mention of violence against women was made, the Executive Branch substituted the term for violence against the family, during the regulation of the law, contrary to the spirit of the law.

a. The Costa Rican and Guatemalan States make a distinction between DV/IFV and VAW, in legislation and policies and/or national plans.

b. The Integrated Gender Action Plan 2006 – 2010) addressed gender violence but 1 National Policy Plan Structural Approach to Domestic Violence (2014 – 2017) in force is restricted to domestic violence.



5. Regional challenges of addressing violence against women

5.1. Formulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans

Between 2013 and 2016, we have continued to observe in the region the existence of Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAW) with varying leadership levels among countries and even in some countries the creation of interinstitutional coordination with interministerial representation for the formulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, Bol. Rep. of Venezuela and Uruguay). This is rated as a good practice to strengthen the interinstitutional response to violence against women (UNDP, UN Women, 2013). Also observed in some countries is the participation of committees or national advisory committees on gender which provide support to the MAWs in these processes, a point in case being the support received by the Office of Women's Affairs in Jamaica on the part of the Gender Advisory Committee for the formulation of the National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence in Jamaica (2015-2025). On the other hand, we have confirmed the significant role of the financial and technical support provided by international cooperation, especially to the Anglophone Caribbean countries, in the formulation of policies and/or national plans on gender violence.

The creation of MAW in the region is undoubtedly a favourable sign of the political will of States to fulfil the commitments that they undertook to accept and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)³⁵. As of 2016, all the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (100%) have created a MAW which includes, as part of their institutional mission stewardship on gender policies, equal opportunities and equality of treatment among genders, the role of developing policies and/or national plans to address violence toward women, although there exist nuances among countries³⁶. However, the institutional performance of MAWs display important differences among them due to, among other causes, 'the hierarchical level they occupy in the organizational structure of the state' (ECLAC)³⁷ and their institutional capacities³⁸ with implications for the exercise of such functions.

To understand the nuances between countries, both in the first and second phase of the survey, the MAWs have been classified into two criteria: a) 'hierarchical level' (ECLAC) and b) 'presence or absence of mechanisms for institutional coordination to address violence against women and/

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35. The Convention on Ending of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the main convention on the rights of women, which establishes legal obligations of States parties to prevent discrimination against women. CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and entered into force in 1981. To date it has been ratified by 187 States worldwide with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, protect and promote their rights.

36. In accordance with the first phase survey in 2013, all the countries in the study sample had a MAW, albeit with variations in the hierarchical level they occupy in the organizational structure of the state. Reviewing this information comparatively, it appears that Ecuador and Nicaragua have advanced in respect to the institutional setting of 2013. In Ecuador the Transition Commission toward the Council of Women and Gender Equality (Executive Decree 1733/2009) transforms to the creation of the National Council for Gender Equality, which is under the Presidents office. In Nicaragua the Ministry of Family, Youth and Children paved way for the Ministry of Women to absorb the stewardship in policies for women and gender. All other countries maintain the same institutional stewardship of gender policies; although in some cases there were new names and redefinition of functions, point in case Brazil.

37. ECLAC has established the hierarchical level of the MAW as a qualitative indicator which describes the status that countries have formally conferred on these mechanisms through laws, decrees and other official measures. The level of hierarchy of the MAWs is calculated basing on the national legislation, which defines its powers and legal status. Source: ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory (2016).

or gender³⁹. Table 13 in the following pages represents a list of MAW, immediate reporting lines, the level of institutional hierarchy which each possesses in accordance with the ECLAC criteria and the presence (or not) of interinstitutional coordination mechanisms to address violence against women and/or gender, by sub region and country, by 2016.

As shown in Table 13, the first group of countries has a **MAW with a higher level of hierarchy, has 'ministerial rank or the rank of this position is a Minister with full participation in the Cabinet' (ECLAC). This first group comprises 13 of the 33 countries (39%)** (Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and the Bol. Rep. of Venezuela). The main strategies adopted by MAW of high level institutional hierarchy for the for-

mulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender, still having nuances among them, have mainly been aimed at creating interinstitutional coordination mechanisms (with the exceptions of Chile, Cuba and Paraguay); strengthening the institutionalization of gender at the subnational level (provincial, departmental, municipal or local, depending on the country); the signing of interinstitutional agreements to bolster the efficient participation of organizations in the critical path and, in some cases, the elaboration of action protocols on violence against women⁴⁰; de-concentration of work in operative and technical commissions (Honduras, Mexico and Costa Rica); decentralization of the processes for the formulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans in the areas seeking to respond institutionally to particularities and specific require-

ments of women who experience violence in these areas, coordinated from the central level; the coordination of policies and/or national plans on violence against women with other programmes, national plans or policies, such as health plans, citizen security, housing, HIV/AIDS, poverty, etc., whose tie-in is fundamental for guaranteeing a comprehensive institutional response to address violence against women and the creation of institutional spaces for channelling the participation of civil society⁴¹.

The second group of countries is made up of **2 of the 33 countries (6%) (Colombia and Ecuador) which have a MAW with a medium level of hierarchy**. These MAWs correspond to an entity under the Presidency or a mechanism whose head directly reports to the Presidency (ECLAC). The MAWs that make up this group have legally been constituted and directly and functionally depend on the Presidency of the Republic or under the ministry of public service. Both countries have an interinstitutional coordination mechanism under the leadership of MAW for the formulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans on violence against women. In the case of Ecuador, it is important to note that the National Council for Gender Equality is the MAW which by legal mandate assumes the duties and powers of the former Commission of Transition on the Definition of Public Institutionalism to Guarantee Equality between Men and Women and is the organ responsible for ensuring the full enjoyment and exercise of the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic and in the international instruments of human rights of women and other LGBTIQ people. The main strategies adopted by Colombia and Ecuador for the implementation of policies and/or national plans for intersector coordination include: the establishment of interinstitutional alliances and agreements and with civil society; creation of institutions for monitoring and evaluation of policies and/or national plans (Monitoring Committee of Law 1257 of 2008 in Colombia); the intersection of public policies, for example the coordination of the National Plan to End Gender Based Violence towards Children, Youth and Women of Ecuador with the Public Safety System and, specifically, with the National Plan for Citizen Security; and territorial decentralization of policies, for example through the creation of Territorial Mechanisms for gender Equality in Colombia.

The third group is composed of **18 of the 33 countries (61%), i.e. more than half of the countries in the region, which have a MAW with low level institutional hierarchy** because the MAWs are entities dependent on the second or third line of a Ministry (deputy ministries, departments, institutes, councils, divisions, districts, bureaus, offices and other figures) (ECLAC) (Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia). In 9 of the 20 countries (45%) have created mechanisms for interinstitutional coordination (Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Panama, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica and Suriname). Among the countries that do not have an interinstitutional coordination mechanism there are 6 cases (Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Cuba) in which the official sources consulted foresee the creation of a mechanism or of a national task force in the executive or parliament. The main strategies for the implementation of policies and/or national plans in this set of countries has been oriented to the creation of institutional coordination mechanisms under the leadership of MAWs with the exceptions of Argentina, Cuba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia;

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38. The institutional capacities of the MAWs can not only be measured in terms of accomplishments achieved (which would facilitate a measure of efficiency) but also in terms of the following criteria (effectiveness): i) availability of trained human resources; ii) availability of financial resources, especially public funds and the ability to manage scarce resources; iii) technological capacity; iv) social capital (enables them to coordinate with civil society); v) negotiating capacity; vi) representation capacity and ability to articulate the interests of the various social groups of women, the LGBTIQ population, women in situations of greater social vulnerability, etc.; vii) ability to decipher the cultural, economic, social and international contexts; viii) participation and influence in the decision making spaces and processes, both in cabinet ministries as well as in parliamentary spaces. The different trajectories and institutional profiles of MAWs respond, among other reasons depending on particular contexts to: i) regulatory frameworks and public policies that contribute differently to the mitigation of social inequality and address the various manifestations of violence against women in each country; ii) cultures more or less likely to promote gender equality and a life free of violence against women; iii) political will and social and political commitment to policies for equality, inclusion, non discrimination and a life free of violence against women; iv) differences in the ability to influence social movements, especially feminist movements and women organizations, to institutionalize their clamour against the advance of a violent, sexist and patriarchal society; among others.

39. A thorough analysis of the institutional capacities should include an in depth analysis of the available economic and human resources, the technological capacity etc. This information has not been collected from the proposed line of research for this study.

40. See Annex Table A1: Gender governing institutions, by country and main legal instruments and history of public policies on violence against women and/or gender, by country in: "The Commitment of States: National Plans and Policies to Eradicate Violence against Women" (2013) (UNDP, UN Women).

41. In 2016 an increase in the participation of social actors, especially organizations defending the rights of women and/or feminists; human rights organizations; organizations defending the rights of indigenous, rural and afrodescendant women and themselves victims/survivors of violence, among others in the planning phase. This confirms the transition, already evidenced in 2013, of a planning model based on the vertical and sectoral state action with little social participation, in which social actors are simply informed about the decisions "from above" but without participating in the decision making process, towards a horizontal and plural participation model with shared responsibilities and functions between the State and Civil Society. Social participation has been important in the prevention campaigns carried out in an articulated manner with institutions at the national, sub-national and local, or independently, and in the provision of comprehensive care services to victims/survivors, especially in relation to emotional and psychological support. Even in some of the cases studied, the community has well defined roles and functions for joint administrative management and mobilization and control of resources. For that matter, the citizen participation experience in Peru is remarkable. The National Plan to Combat Violence Against Women (2009 – 2015) was the result of the interinstitutional agreements and the contributions of multiple civil society actors (professionals, experts, community leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, women organizations and feminist movements at the national, regional and local levels) who in an organized way actively participated in the revision, formulation and validation of observations of the proposal for the national plan before its official approval. This collaboration was channelled through four mechanisms: a) consultations held within the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP Spanish acronym), both to representatives of the different sectors of the State such as civil society organizations at the national and regional level; b) a general consultation through virtual means and another directed to specialists in the field and to the leaders of the Main Women's Organizations and c) the organization of a Regional Consultation Workshop with pluriactor participation.

the de-concentration of work in commissions or Gender Focal Points in public organizations (El Salvador, Dominica, Panama); the decentralization and creation/strengthening of gender institutions at the subnational level (El Salvador, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Panama, Uruguay); the creation of inter-agency partnerships (Dominican Republic, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, El Salvador, Panama, Uruguay); and the creation of spaces for citizen participation (Uruguay, Brazil, El Salvador, Chile, Bolivia).

5.2 Monitoring and evaluation of policies and/or national plans

In 2013 the regional research made reference to the presence in the region of an emerging culture of evaluation of the results of public policies in general and policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender in particular. In 2013 it was confirmed that 20 of the 32 countries (62%) which provided information on actors, strategies, mechanisms, methodologies and results of monitoring and evaluation experiences of the policies and/or national plans, warned on the notable weakness in the development of monitoring and evaluation systems (ex ante and ex post) which allowed the qualitative and quantitative measurement of the efficiency, effectiveness and economic development of the activities. Only eight countries of the study sample then foresaw the creation of monitoring and evaluation systems which included in the short or mid term, at least, goals, performance indicators and responsible institutions to measure the progress of the management. And there were very few countries that had planned and/or created monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for policies and/or national plans.

Unfortunately, the situation at the regional level has not prospered in 2016. **Only 16 of the 33 countries (45%) (Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Co-**

lombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bol. Rep. of Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama) i.e. less than half of the countries in the region (and 17% less than in 2013) provided information on the monitoring and evaluation phase of the policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender. From the information available, it appears that the actors responsible for monitoring and evaluation are mainly: a) the MAWs, in some cases in a coordinated way with other national enforcement and/or planning agencies (Dominican Republic, Dominica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); b) national statistics offices (Peru and Belize); c) commissions created for the evaluation of policies and/or national plans (Costa Rica, Honduras and Brazil); d) the same interinstitutional mechanisms created for the implementation of policies and/or national plans (Nicaragua, Panama and Uruguay); e) an observatory attached to MAW (Argentina); f) tables created within each agency with specific skills for the evaluation of policies and/or national plans (Peru) and g) external consultancies (Uruguay and Guatemala).

The information analysis recognizes at least three promising experiences in monitoring and evaluation of policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender in the region. The first promising practice comes from Mexico, where the National Development Plan (2013 – 2018) includes indicators for measuring priority issues, to give them timely monitoring and learn about progress in achieving established goals and, where appropriate, make the necessary adjustments to ensure compliance. Within the Sectoral Programmes, the targets to be achieved were determined by the indicators to effectively measure the actions of the Government. In the case of not achieving some of the goals or in-

dicators, corrective measures for the public programmes are taken to enhance its compliance. In the Framework of the Performance Evaluation System, agencies and entities of the Federal Public Administration monitor, basing on indicators, the results of their actions in relation to the National Development Plan (2013 – 2018) and the programmes under it and inform the Finance Secretariat and Public Finance body, with the aim that the President of the Republic notifies Congress of the results of the implementation, in accordance with the constitution of the United States of Mexico and the Planning Law. On the other hand, the Comprehensive National Policy, through the Comprehensive Programme to Prevent, Address, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women 2014 – 2018, foresee an evaluation method designed to monitor the progress and performance indicators for every objective, strategy and specific line of action, which, depending on their nature, have defined timelines.

The second promising practice comes from Colombia. The Intersectoral Commission for the Implementation of the Public Policy for Women's Equality and the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee a Life Free of Violence, interinstitutional mechanisms to follow up and monitor the CONPES Social Document N° 161 on 'Gender Equality for Women' and the Comprehensive Plan for a Life Free of Violence, has developed a dashboard with indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the actions and the impact of the care and prevention policies on violence according to the methodology of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which is available interactively on the ACEM Website. The following steps were taken for the construction of the control panel: i) identification and prioritization of the variables which form part of the control panel; ii) development of the first proposal of indicators for the measurement of identified and prioritized variables; iii) identification of information sources; iv) evaluation of the needs and expectations of the institutions that integrate the interinstitutional mechanisms; and v) definition of the strategic framework, the value chains and the formulation of indicators. The control board has 41 management and results indicators. The progress in the implementation of the National Plan are shared with the public through public events and the Monitoring Committee under Act N° 1257 which created the mechanism for filing complaints against officials not meeting Act N°1257. The institutions responsible for these processes are the National Planning Department, the Attorney General's Office and the Presidential Council for Women's Equality.

Another promising practice in monitoring and evaluation is identified in Uruguay, where in the process of developing their current Action Plan 2016 – 2019: For a life free of gender based violence, with a generational view, considered the 1st evaluation of the National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2004 – 2010), carried out in 2012. The Vth line of action of the new Plan corresponds to the monitoring and evaluation of the same. The annual reports of the entities responsible for advancing the Plan, such as the Departmental Commissions, will allow the National Consultative Council to create an interinstitutional space for monitoring the various sectoral policies on gender violence, to have specific tools for monitoring and evaluation and annual accountability. To this end, it establishes goals, indicators and the bodies responsible for monitoring and evaluation.

Table 13. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAW): dependency, hierarchy, level of hierarchy (ECLAC) and the existence of interagency coordination mechanisms, by country 2016

Country	MAW	Hierarchical Dependency	Level of hierarchy (ECLAC)	Interinstitutional coordination mechanisms
Antigua and Barbuda	Directorate of Gender Affairs	Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender	Low	Gender-Based Violence National Committee
Argentina	National Women's Council (CNM)	National Council for Social Policies. Ministry of Social Development. Under the Presidents Office.	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism. CNM signed agreements with organizations for the implementation of Act N° 26.485.
Bahamas	Bureau of Gender Affairs	Ministry of Social Services and Community Development.	Low	Intersectoral Ministerial Committee
Barbados	Bureau of Gender Affairs	Ministry of Social Welfare, Empowerment and Community Development	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism
Belize	Women's Department	Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation.	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism
Bolivia	Deputy Minister for Equal Opportunities	Ministry of Justice	Low	Comprehensive Plurinational System for prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Gender based Violence (SIPPASE)
Brazil	Ministry of Women, Racial Equality and Human Rights <i>Ministério das Mulheres, da Igualdade Racial e dos Direitos Humanos (MMIRDH)</i>	Presidency of the Republic	High	National Council on the rights of Women (Conselho Nacional dos Direitos da Mulher).
Colombia	Presidential Council for Women's Equality	Presidency of the Republic	Medium	Intersectoral Commission for Implementing the Public Policy on Women's Equality and the Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee a Life Free of Violence, whose coordinating body is ACEPEM (2014).
Costa Rica	National Institute for Women	Independent institution of public law with its own legal personality and heritage. Holds the Rank of a ministry.	High	National System for the Care and Prevention of Violence against Women and Intrafamily Violence.
Cuba	Federation of Cuban Women		High	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism
Chile	National Women's Service (SERNAM)	Ministry of Social Development. Presidency of the Republic	High	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism. SERNAM signed agreements with organizations for the implementation of Act N° 19.023.
Dominica	Bureau of Gender Affairs	Minister of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Affairs	Low	National Gender Advisory Committee
Ecuador	National Council for Gender Equality	Presidency of the Republic	Medium	Interinstitutional Coordination Committee (Executive Decree N° 620)
El Salvador	Salvadorian Institute for Women Development	Presidency of the Republic	Low	Specialized Technical Committee (CTE in Spanish) and the Specialized Technical Unit of the Justice sector.
Grenada	Division of Gender and Family Affairs	Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Development.	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism ⁴²
Guatemala	Presidential Secretariat for Women	Presidency of the Republic	High	National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intrafamily Violence and Violence against Women. (CONAPREVI)
Guyana	Women's Affairs Bureau	Minister of Works, Social Services and Social Security	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism.
Haiti	Ministry of Women and Women's Rights (<i>Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes</i>)	Cabinet Ministers	High	National Coalition on Violence Against Women (Concertation Nationale contre les Violences spécifiques faites aux femmes)
Honduras	National Institute for Women	Presidency of the Republic	High	High-level Executive Committee (Political)
Jamaica	Bureau of Women's Affairs	Office of the Prime Minister	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism ⁴³
Mexico	National Institute for Women	Decentralized public entity under Federal Public Administration with interministerial participation	High	National System for Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.
Nicaragua	Ministry of Women	Presidency of the Republic	High	National Interinstitutional Commission to Combat Violence Against Women, Children and Youth.
Panama	National Institute for Women	Decentralized Entity under the Ministry of Social Development	Low	National Committee Against Violence on Women (CONVIMU)
Paraguay	Ministry of Women	Presidency of the Republic	High	Interinstitutional Board for the Prevention, Care, Case Monitoring and Protection of Women Victims of Violence (2015)
Peru	Vice Ministry of Women	Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations	High	Permanent High Level Multisectoral Commission
Dominican Republic	Ministry of Women	Presidency of the Republic	High	National Commission to Combat, Prevent, Care and Punish Violence (CONAPLUVI)

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42. Official sources confirm that a National Task Force is being formed to address domestic violence. (December 2015).

43. The National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence in Jamaica (2011) provides two options: a) the creation of an interinstitutional coordination mechanism comprising of senior public management officials under the leadership of the Women Affairs Office or b) the creation of a parliamentary commission under the leadership of the Women Affairs Office.

Saint Kitts and Nevis	Department of Gender Affairs	Ministry of Social Development, Community and Gender Affairs	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism. ⁴⁴
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Gender Affairs Department	Ministry for National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Disability and Youth	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism. ⁴⁵
Saint Lucia	Department of Gender Relations	Ministry of Health, Welfare, Social Services and Gender Relations	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism.
Suriname	National Gender Bureau	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Low	Steering Committee on Domestic Violence
Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development	Cabinet Ministers	Low	Did not create an interinstitutional coordination mechanism. ⁴⁶
Uruguay	National Institute for Women (INMUJERES)	Ministry of Social Development	Low	National Advisory Council to Combat Domestic Violence (CNCLVD).
Venezuela	Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality	Presidency of the Republic	High	High Level Intersectoral Commission

Source: Prepared by the authors. Hierarchical level for the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAW): ECLAC, ECLAC Observatory for Gender Equality

Also available at: <http://www.cepal.org/oiq/html/niveljerarquico2.html> (Last Visited: 13 of April 2016).

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44. The preliminary version of the Multisectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2015) provides for the creation of a Steering Committee for the Eradication of Gender based Violence, composed of implementing institutions of the Multisectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

45. The National Action Plan foresees the creation of the National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan Advisory Commission led by the Gender Affairs Department, which will function as an advisory and monitoring body on the implementation of the National Action Plan.

46. The National Strategic Action Plan foresees the creation of an interinstitutional coordination mechanism for its implementation. The official sources have neither confirmed the integration of the mechanism nor the implementation strategies.



6. Innovative institutional experiences for the prevention, care, punishment and redress of violence against women

Whether they form part of the lines of action set out in the policies and/or national plans on violence against women and/or gender or relating to the actions implemented without formal planning, States, through their MAW and/or in concert with civil society and other stakeholders, act on the four central themes of intervention: prevention, care, punishment and redress of violence against women, in various ways. Following the trend set in 2013, it has been shown that, even with differences among the countries, all countries implement actions in reference to the first three central themes (prevention, care and punishment) and, to a minor extent, implement actions related to the theme of redress, which remains a major challenge in the region. In relation to the latter, it is important to note that states generally neither promote nor implement measures to ensure remedies for victims/survivors whose rights were violated. We refer, for example, to the actions aimed at the economic empowerment of the victims/survivors, their social reintegration, priority access to housing and stable employment, building their capacities and emotional strength to make independent decisions, among others.

The implemented initiatives and results obtained for each of the themes are very varied. Below are the main strategies and implemented actions for the four central themes of intervention.

On **the theme of prevention** the main strategies relate to the implementation of prevention campaigns, education, sensitization, training, awareness and/or promotion and dissemination of attitudes, values and practices of human rights respect and a life free of violence through media television, print, radio, on public roads, etc.; the creation of “safe institutional contexts” to establish environments with zero tolerance to violence against women both within public institutions and in the private sector (through partnerships within the framework of Social Responsibility programmes); the creation of networks among social and institutional actors to involve youth, men and children (for example, through programmes of positive non violent masculinity) so that they become allies for social transformations and key actors in changing cultural patterns that exacerbate violence against women; promoting community mobilization through the participation of both grassroots organizations and local authorities to implement joint preventive actions in the territorial sphere; the creation of multi sectorial agendas to guarantee complementarity between public policies that articulate “related issues” that exacerbate violence against women (point in case, consumption of alcohol, drugs, access to firearms, etc.); among others.

On the **theme of care**, the main strategies in the region are linked to the creation of spaces for refuge (shelters) and, progressively, some countries are creating opportunities to provide comprehensive care to the victims/survivors and their environments under the modality of a one stop service centre that includes medical and psychological care, emotional support, legal aid, etc. in a single space; development of intersectoral action protocols for care to the victims/survivors on a critical path; opening telephone helplines at the national level, many of them free, with every day, 24 hour, attention with specialized staff providing advice, information, guidance and support to the victims/survivors and the creation of multisector support networks and in some cases with the participation of civil society organizations; among others.

On the **theme of punishment**, the main strategies are directed at creating multisector work agendas for the revision and harmonization of the regulatory frameworks to amend and/or repeal discriminatory provisions toward women; mainstreaming the gender approach in the legislative and

public policy instruments on violence against women; the adoption of measures to guarantee the legal protection of the victims/survivors; the toughening of penalties for offenders; modification of the vocabulary used in the formulation of laws with the aim of eradicating gender biases; the creation and/or strengthening of specialized police units to respond to violence against women and specialized tribunals or specialized court proceedings; capacity building for judicial operators, judges and personnel of the judicial system in general; strengthening the joint work of police and teams of prosecutors to address violence against women in a coordinated and efficient manner (for example, through the development of intersector action protocols); the availability of protection orders to victims/survivors and the implementation of “intervention” programmes for offenders (for example, programmes promoting the change of behaviour for offenders as part of their sentence and not as an alternative to the legal process).

The **theme of redress**, the few strategies that are implemented in the region are aimed at developing initiatives to remedy violated rights and the moral damage to the victims/survivors; the implementation of intersectoral measures to achieve economic empowerment for the victims/survivors (for example, through the granting of micro credits); psychological, legal, social and economic support to the victims/survivors; immediate access to housing, medicine and

other medical supplies and other specified requirements and the adoption measures aimed at social and professional reintegration through employment programmes, vocational training, etc.

Below are 29 promising experiences of institutional responses in relation to the four themes of intervention; prevention, care, punishment and/or redress and references to some transversal actions which describe promising experiences linked to the measurement of violence against women and with capacity building. The promising experiences mentioned are a result of the analysis of the information from the development of the mapping process of national plans and policies which address violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the exchange that resulted from an in-depth interview framework conducted with key MAW informants from the countries in the region. In each of the tables, the following information is summarised: a) sub region and country (or countries); b) theme of intervention or transversal action which makes reference to experience; c) justification on why it is a promising experience; d) description of the experience and; e) contact details so that the reader can broaden the information on each of the promising experiences. The list below does not purport to be exhaustive but rather illustrative with the aim of broadening knowledge on the promising experiences to address violence against women and/or gender in the region.

6.1 Promising experiences in relation to the theme of prevention of violence against women and/or gender

Sub region	Andean
Country	Plurinational State of Bolivia
Theme	Prevention
Promising experience	Dissemination of information on the law against violence toward women through the implementation of a prevention campaign on television and radio media and translated into the indigenous languages and creating a virtual platform for knowledge management.
Description	The Justice Ministry of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in coordination with the Ministry of Communication and with support of social women organizations and the Plurinational Youth Council, in 2015 distributed articles of Act N° 348 'Comprehensive Law to guarantee women a life free of violence' 2013 through the character of Dr. Edilicia in the framework of the campaign "there's nothing, nothing that justifies violence" ("Es que nada, nada justifica la Violencia" in Spanish) and its broadcast in indigenous languages (aymará/quechua). Also in respect to dissemination of Act N° 348, the Ministry of Justice of the Plurinational State of Bolivia with support from UNDP developed a Knowledge management platform on gender violence and Act N° 348, which can be visited on the internet.
More information	Knowledge Management Platform: www.348mujereslibresdeviolencia.org Ministry of Justice: www.justicia.gob.bo/
Sub region	Andean
Country	Peru
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Capacity Development
Promising experience	Interministerial coordination for the implementation of measures to prevent violence against women through the use of national survey data that includes a specific module on violence against women.
Description	In 2015 the National Programme against Family and Sexual Violence (PNCVFS) under the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) started the information campaign "Preventing youth pregnancies" within the framework of coordinated intervention between the MIMP and the Ministry of Education 'Prevention of family and sexual violence, youth pregnancies and human trafficking' carried out in 476 educational institutions nationwide, with the aim of protecting the adolescent and youth population against family, sexual and school violence; as well as against (sexual, labour and homeless) trafficking. This action is a result of the MIMP decision responsive to the results shown by the Demographic and Family Health Survey (ENDES) of 2014, which indicates that, 71.5% of the Peruvian women were once raped by their spouse or partner, with youth age group between 15 and 19 being the most vulnerable. The statistical information, at the local level, the MIMP implemented the 'Strategy for the Prevention, Care and Protection against Family and Sexual Violence in Rural Areas' in 22 rural districts of the 15 regions of Peru.
More information	MIMP: www.mimp.gob.pe

Sub region	Andean
Country	Peru
Theme	Prevention
Promising experience	Alliance of the public sector, private sector and international cooperation to programme joint activities for the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace and safe and non violent work environments.
Description	The Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) has established partnerships with the private sector through programmes for Social Responsibility in compliance with the provisions of the Law on Equal Opportunities between men and women, Act No 28.983, which in article 6°, seeks to guarantee “the right to productive work, exercised in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity, incorporating measures aimed at avoiding any form of job discrimination, between men and women, in access to employment, training, promotion and work conditions, and equal pay for the same work. Among the labour rights is protection from sexual harassment and harmonization of family and work responsibilities”. By 2015, MIMP was developing a collaborative strategy with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ) to promote safe work places, where rights of women and men are respected through actions of motivation, conviction and capacity building so that companies integrate the equality perspective and take into account the costs and impacts of violence against women in the work environment. To that end, have considered a set of actions that recognize, encourage and motivate entrepreneurs to join this initiative.

More information MIMP: www.mimp.gob.pe

Sub region	Central America
Country	Guatemala
Theme	Prevention
Promising experience	Translation of the campaigns on prevention of violence toward women in the native languages of the indigenous communities and joint Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women with the indigenous communities and the justice sector for programming activities and the logistics for disseminating the information.
Description	Due to the multi-ethnic composition of the country, the campaigns and public policies that introduce prevention measures adopt the ethnic and intercultural approach that allows the recognition of particular social group of women of the four dominant ethnicities in Guatemala: <i>Xinca, Garifuna, Mestiza and Maya</i> . Among the particularities is the language, and thus, all the campaigns are translated in the four languages of the dominating ethnicities through joint work between the Department for the Promotion of Women SEPREM and the Municipal Offices for Women and the Territorial Coordinators. For example, the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) has produced a video that addresses the Rights of Victims which was translated in the three Mayan languages – <i>Kakchiquel, Mam y Kekchi</i> – and to ensure its distribution provided to 7 District Prosecutors the projection equipment and video.

More information SEPREM: www.sepreem.gob.gt

Sub region	Central America
Country	Honduras
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Capacity Development
Promising experience	Joint public sector, international cooperation and civil society organizations with the education sector (university subsector) to implement training actions through formal studies for government officials and social actors with direct or indirect influence in addressing violence against women and femicide.
Description	In the academic sphere, created the “Diploma on Gender, Coexistence and Citizen Security” under the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) under the coordination of feminist organizations, and funded by AECID. Specifically benefits government officials, representatives of civil society organizations and feminist movements and representatives of the media. In 2015, after seven months of class, it was closed in March with the graduation of 35 new professionals in this field. This first course was taught in seven modules in 184 hours in five municipalities: Tela, La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula and Choloma and in the Central district. The participants, including 32 women and 4 men, obtained knowledge on gender, national and international policies that support the human rights of women, femicides, violent deaths of women and coexistence and citizen security, which abide by prevention and social reintegration.

More information IUPDAS (UNAH): www.iupdas.org

Sub region	North America
Country	Mexico
Theme	Prevention
Promising experience	Creation and strengthening of Citizen and Interinstitutional Networks from the State to join efforts between the government and civil society with the aim of constructing alternatives that allow citizens to intervene in an appropriate way in situations of gender violence that occur in their communities and thrive on that to restore the social fabric of the country.
Description	The National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women (CONAVIM), agency under the Ministry of Governance, has promoted as part of its public policy the Interinstitutional and Citizen Networks which are groups of women and men that establish mechanisms for support, care and prevention of violence in their environments. In these networks the participants are trained and seek to contribute to public institutions in effective actions aimed at generating a life free of violence for women. Between 2013 and 2014, created and strengthened 22 Citizen and Interinstitutional Networks in 9 federal states (Chiapas, Chihuahua, Federal District, Guerrero, Hidalgo, State of Mexico, Michoacán, Oaxaca and Yucatán). CONAVIM also promoted the creation of Youth Communities made up of young people who come together with the purpose of developing through workshops, conferences and dynamics, action processes aimed at preventing violence in courtship as well as combating gender stereotypes and violence against women and girls.

More information CONAVIM: <http://www.conavim.gob.mx/>

Sub region	Anglophone Caribbean
Country	Grenada
Theme	Prevention
Promising experience	Knowledge management. Documentation of qualitative information to programme activities for the prevention of gender violence.
Description	The Division of Gender and Family Affairs operating under the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Development has examined and documented the myths, beliefs and cultural practices that support tolerance of gender violence within the country in the period 2014 – 2015. This knowledge, now documented, is valuable input for knowledge management as it allows the development of actions for prevention through national dialogues, radio and television spots and community workshops, which are all catalysts of cultural change. Point in case, in the framework of the National Parenting Programme, the Division for Gender and Family Affairs promotes in schools and with youth and community groups the idea that it is necessary first to have 'self recognition' of violence, within families and spousal relationships, and just then cut violent cultural patterns that are entrenched in the population and finally propose alternatives based on the spousal and intrafamily healthy relationships, with a message based on prevention.

More information Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Development: http://www.gov.gd/ministries/social_development.html

Sub region	Southern Cone
Country	Paraguay
Theme	Prevention
Promising experience	Joint State and Civil Society to support the Global Solidarity Movement promoted by UN Women, called HeForShe whose objective is to generate global awareness of the responsibilities that men of all ages and backgrounds have as advocates and agents of change to realise the rights of women and girls and thus ensure an egalitarian world.
Description	The Ministry of Women support the Global Solidarity Movement promoted by UN Women, called HeForShe, also translated to Guaraní (kuimba'e kuña rehehápe). Noteworthy is the work of a social organization, Assistance for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Violent Men (APREVIM), a non-profit civil society organization that works on rehabilitation of offenders through a programme for counselling and psychological treatment with the view of reintegration in the family and social – labour environment. The Ministry of Women signed a mutual collaboration agreement with the mentioned organization.
More information	APREVIM- Support for Rehabilitation of Male Violence offenders Address: Avda Mcal. López 1451 c/ Monseñor Bogarín. Asunción. Paraguay. Telephone: (021) 419 2827 Ministry of Women: http://www.mujer.gov.py

Sub region	Andean
Country	Peru
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Measuring violence against women
Promising experience	Creating crime observatories for producing statistical data on femicide and human trafficking at the national level with disaggregated data according to the characteristics of the victims and femicides, among others.
Description	The Crime Observatory of the Public Prosecutions – National Prosecutor of Peru, includes statistical data that has been documented in the reports on "Femicide statistics according to the characteristics of the victims and the alleged offender" and "Statistics on attempted femicide according to the characteristics of the victims and the alleged offenders", both corresponding to the period 2009 – 2014 (consolidated data for the indicated period). The statistical data that can be obtained from the same are the following: a. Age of the victim (age range) and relationship with the offender (subcategorized within the categories of 'spouse or ex spouse,' family'and 'acquaintance'); b. Age of the offender (age range); c. Characteristics of the occurrence (categorization of the causes of femicide); d. Scene of occurrence of the fact (subcategorized within the categories of 'public' and 'private). The Crime Observatory also includes a registry only carried out in 2010 'Profiles of victims, profiles of alleged offenders and characteristics of the attempted femicide, femicide and other homicides of women and men which includes statistical data of number of feminicides in 2010 by type; characteristics of the victims and the offenders or suspected offenders for cases of attempted feminicides. The statistical data consolidate the administrative records of prosecutors at the national level in compliance to Directive Nº 006 – 2009 – MP – FN, approved by Resolution Nº 1690 – 2009 – MP – FN of the Nations Prosecutors Office on 20th November 2009, which provides that all prosecutors of family, criminal and mixed should refer to the Criminal Prosecution on information regarding cases of women homicides and attempted homicides of women which should be known and constitute femicide or attempted femicide. The "Strategic Information System on human trafficking – SISTRÁ", of the Criminal Observatory of Public Prosecution operational since may 2013, registers complaints nationwide on human trafficking, obtaining real-time information of cases, operations and rescues of victims.
More information	MIMP: www.mimp.gob.pe

Sub region	Andean
Country	Ecuador
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Measuring violence against women
Promising experience	Design and implementation of a specialized national survey for measuring the prevalence and incidence of violence against women.
Description	From the National Council on Gender Equality commissioned the first National Survey on Family Affairs and Gender Violence against women (2011), in coordination with the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the aim of evaluating the situation of women in regard to the right to a life free of violence in the country. Based on the information obtained, from the National Council for Gender Equality, diagnostics have been carried out at the national and provincial level to socialize them with State and civil society representatives, especially women organizations. The First National Survey on Family Affairs and Gender Violence has been included in the Statistical Programme of the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses (INEC), to be implemented within a time frame of 5 years, the reason why have planned to undertake a new survey in 2016.
More information	National Council for Gender Equality: http://www.comisiondetransicion.gob.ec/

Sub region	North America
Country	Mexico
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Measuring violence against women
Promising experience	Creating system of specific indicators for measuring violence against women whose information is of public access and an input for the development of public policy. The design and implementation of specialized surveys and acceptable with specific modules for measuring violence against women. Implementation of studies for measuring femicide violence.
Description	<p>a) The Mexican State has been a pioneer in collecting statistical information on violence against women, which has facilitated the design of adequate public policies for the prevention, care, punishment and eradication of violence against women. INMUJERES has provided on its website the Gender Indicator System (http://www.inmujeres.gob.mx/biblioteca-digital/estadisticas.html), which offers everyone statistical information on the various issues which allows one to have a general overview of the situation of men and women in Mexico and its evolution in the recent past. To understand data on women victims of violence at the national level and by federal entity and their characteristics, have results of the National Survey on the Dynamics of Household Relationships (ENDIREH in Spanish) carried out in 2006 and 2011 by INMUJERES, INEGI and UNIFEM, jointly with other institutions. ENDIREH aims at generating statistical data on the frequency and magnitude of spousal violence, as well as that experienced by women in the school, work and community environments. This information facilitates the formation of Statistical Subsystems on Violence, within the National System of Statistical and Geographic Information. A complete analysis of the results at the national level and by federal entity of ENDIREH 2006 is found in the publication, "Panorama of Violence against Women", by INEGI. Has a publication for each federal state entity, one for the Federal District and one at the national level. Other non specific instruments that have been applied are: National Survey on Insecurity (ENSI, 2009) of the Citizen Institute for Studies on Insecurity; National Survey on Courtship Violence (ENVINOV, 2008) by the Ministry of Public Education (SEP); Survey on Health and rights of Indigenous Women (ENS ADEMI, 2008) by the Ministry of Health; National Survey on Violence against Women (ENVIM, 2006) and the National Survey on Violence and Health – National Health Institute.</p> <p>b) Another promising practice in Mexico has been the conducting of a detailed study on the context of femicide violence in the country, taking into account the different ways this affects the integrity, freedom, health and life of women, with statistical evidence; from the violence perpetrated by the spouse, which occurs in the family and community environment, to the institutional violence and homicide and femicide. To this end, the Special Commission to Recognize and to give Timely and Comprehensive Monitoring to the Actions Undertaken by the Competent Authorities in Relation to the Femicides Registered in Mexico of the LXI Legislature, in collaboration with UN Women and the National Institute for Women conducted the study on femicide violence in Mexico. Characteristics, tendencies and new expressions in federal entities, 1985 – 2010 whose objective was to analyse the femicide phenomenon in Mexico. Previous work was published in 2011 under the title Femicide in Mexico: Approach, Tendencies and Changes 1985 – 2009. (Source: Femicide Violence in Mexico. Characteristics, tendencies and new expressions in federal entities, 1982 – 2010. First edition, 2012).</p>
More information	<p>INEGI: www.inegi.org.mx</p> <p>"Femicide violence in Mexico. Characteristics, tendencies and new expressions in federal entities, 1982 – 2010": http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/2/Femicidio_Mexico-1985-2010%20pdf.pdf</p>

Sub region	Southern Cone
Country	Argentina
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Measuring violence against women
Promising experience	Creation of a single national registry that allows the standardization of administrative records of public bodies at the national, subnational and local level to have reliable statistical information.
Description	<p>The National Council of Women under the National Council for Social Policies of the Presidency signed a cooperation agreement with the National Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) in September 2012 for the development of a Single Registry of Cases of Violence against Women (RUCVCM). The objective of the agreement focused on the joint development of a set of indicators to account for the phenomena of violence against women, disaggregated by age, sex, marital status, occupation, relationship with the aggressor (protecting the identity of the victim/survivor), among others. For the development of the RUCVCM the INDEC took the following actions: i) definition of the variables; ii) categorization of the variables; iii) development of a template guide for agencies to register and a report outline for presentation of data; and iv) design an informative platform based on the structure of registration and a registry sheet. Additionally INDEC together with CNM signed agreements with the Ministry of Justice, the Public Ministry for Defence, the Security Ministry and the provinces of Cordoba, Salta, Catamarca, La Rioja, Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Buenos Aires and Río Negro. RUCVCM centralizes and standardized 50.703 administrative registries from different agencies and services at the national, provincial, municipal and/or local level in the country. RUCVCM has collected and standardized specific information on the different expressions of violence against women in the public and private domains in accordance to Act 26.485 for the period 01/2013 – 07/2015 and is open to new services in any of the jurisdictions of the country can adhere and provide data through mutual work commitments without complex bureaucratic processes. Similarly RUCVCM facilitates the observation and characterization of a particular dynamic of the phenomenon of violence against women and the concepts, definitions and classifications provide comparable information, both at the local and national, and even at the regional and international levels.</p>
More information	CNM: www.cnm.gov.ar
Sub region	Southern Cone
Country	Uruguay
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Measuring violence against women
Promising experience	Undertaking of the National Survey on the Prevalence of Gender Based and Generational Violence (PENPVBGG)
Description	<p>For the first time in Uruguay, in the period 2013 – 2014, the country's first National Survey on the Prevalence of Gender Based and Generational Violence (PENPVBGG) was held, that produced credible data on violence against women, girls and youth. According to ECLAC, surveys are currently the most adequate instrument to determine the prevalence of violence in the society. The overall objective of the survey was to establish a baseline with a national scope that facilitates the measurement and monitoring of gender based violence in the different sectors and determine its main characteristics. This has been fundamental in overcoming the limitations that come with administrative registries (complaints, use of care services for violence) or partial surveys. The survey had the backing of the National Statistics Institute in the whole process of its undertaking, thus ensuring the reliability of the results obtained and has been the result of a joint coordination process of the interinstitutional spaces, with competence in the field (Protection System for Children and Youth Against Violence – INAU, National Consultative Council to Combat Domestic Violence, representatives from the Public Health Ministry; Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Institute for Women; in the same way integrated the National Statistics Institute (INE); Uruguay International Cooperation Agency; Unit Managing the Project of a United Uruguay; United Nations Population Fund and UN Women. This interagency work "was fundamental in successfully circumventing every hurdle of the survey: the conceptual definitions, the preparation of the questionnaire, selection of field staff, training of interviewers, supervisors and critics, the fieldwork and the processing and preparation of this report. We specifically want to emphasize the involvement and commitment of INE."</p>
More information	http://www.inmujeres.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/33876/1/resumen_de_encuesta_mides.pdf

Sub region	Southern Cone
Country	Paraguay
Theme	Prevention
Transversal action	Measuring violence against women
Promising experience	Measuring of business costs of violence against women
Description	The Regional Programme – Combating Violence against Women in Latin America - <i>ComVoMujer Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</i> with UNDP support and the United Nations Global Pact Network in Paraguay, among other strategic and key actors involved in the programme conducted the first study on “business costs of violence against women in Paraguay” published in September 2015 in which an analysis of estimated business costs of violence against women in Paraguay. As indicated in the document, “ <i>just like in neighbouring countries, the economic impact of violence against women is strong, and not only comes from women assaulted by their partners, but also on the offenders and staff that witness it. Thanks to this study, it is evident that Paraguayan businesses lose a lot due to violence against women: 734.8 US million dollars per annum, equivalent to 2.39% of the Gross Domestic Product.</i> ”
More information	Business costs of violence against women in Paraguay”. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Regional Programme ComVoMujer and United Nations Global Pact Network in Paraguay and UNDP (2015).

6.2 Promising experiences in relation to the theme of care in addressing violence against women and/or gender

Sub region	Central America
Country	El Salvador
Theme	Care
Promising experience	Creation of a national network for comprehensive care services (one stop) to accommodate victims/survivors of violence against women (Ciudad Mujer).
Description	The success of the care model ‘Ciudad Mujer’ is due to the fact that there is a grouping of 14 State institutions in the same place that provide different specialised services to women, to ensure that they are attended to in a timely manner, in an atmosphere of reliability and quality. The centres of ‘Ciudad Mujer’ only operate with female staff. Likewise, Ciudad Mujer has a specialized module on the care of children accompanying their mothers, divided in three sections according to age group; with appropriate equipment and furniture for educational and recreational purposes; staffed by a team of professionals, specialists in child care, including a paediatrician. Within each head office of Ciudad Mujer, there is participation of the different State institutions involved in the critical path, which in this case is a short critical route, whose services are centralized in a single space reducing the post-traumatic stress of the victims/survivors and their children if applicable. This programme officially began with the opening of the first centre of Ciudad Mujer in Colon, located in the department of La Libertad, where for the first time, implemented the comprehensive care module, and followed that with the opening of the headquarters of ‘Ciudad Mujer’ in the municipality of Usulután, in the department of Usulután, on 30th of September 2012. In 2013, opened the headquarters of Santa Ana and San Martin (San Salvador). At the end of this same year, inaugurated the centres of San Miguel and Morazán to bring the services nearer to the women in the eastern side of the country.
More information	Ciudad Mujer: www.ciudadmujer.gob.sv

Sub region	Southern Cone
Country	Brazil
Theme	Care
Promising experience	Creation of a national network of comprehensive care the one stop type of services to accommodate victims/survivors of violence against women.
Description	Through the Programme “Women: Living without Violence” (“Mulher, Viver sem Violência”) in charge of the Special Secretariat on Policies for Women (Secretaria de Políticas para as Mulheres) (SPM-PR) under the Presidency of the Republic has expanded the network of comprehensive one stop services. In the first semester of 2015 inaugurated the “Houses for Women in Brazil” in both capitals Brasília and Campo Grande. Houses for Women in Brazil offer reception spaces and humane assistance to the victims/survivors, which centralizes within the same physical space the different specialized services with a multidisciplinary approach. The Brazilian State predicts that by 2019 there should be functional Houses for Women in Brazil in the 27 state capitals.
More information	SPM-PR: http://www.sepm.gov.br/

Sub region	Southern Cone
Country	Chile
Theme	Care
Promising experience	Creation of specific care units for victims/survivors of sexual violence (current or past) by the stat, which are coordinated with nationwide health programmes.
Description	Sexual assaults constitute one of the most serious forms of violence against women. The Unit for Prevention of Violence against Women, Programme Chile Welcomes, of the National Women’s Service (SERNAM), has created a new model for women victims of sexual violence, called, “Reparatory Care Centres for Women Victims of Sexual Assault” (CVS Women). The CVS Women are meant to cater for women older than 18 years at the time of admission to the centre, have been victims of sexual assault, current or suffered during infancy, current sexual assaults or legally prescribed, sexual assaults in the intrafamily sphere; or extra family by known third parties or strangers. In 2015, created three women CVS in the metropolitan regions of Valparaíso and Bio, with regional coverage and located in the capital of each city. In addition, the Ministry of health also launched programmes to care for victims/survivors of intrafamily and sexual violence that are coordinated with the CVS so that the victims/survivors can access those services more easily.
More information	SERNAM: www.sernam.cl

Sub regions	Southern Cone and Anglophone Caribbean
Countries	Paraguay and Antigua and Barbuda
Theme	Care
Promising experience	Leading practices in prevention and special care for women living with HIV/AIDS and experience violence
Description	Paraguay: To prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and STDs, in situations of sexual violence, the Ministry of Women and the Ministry of Public Health are able to provide free care for cases of intrafamily violence and sexual violence, provision of equipment and medical supplies for vulnerable populations and the promotion of interinstitutional spaces for discussing the prevention of transmitting STDs and HIV/AIDS. Antigua and Barbuda: The Crisis Centre Works jointly with the HIV/AIDS clinic to provide specialized care to the victims of sexual violence, for example through the provision of emergency antiretroviral medications and carrying out corresponding serological studies.
More information	Paraguay: Ministry of Women: http://www.mujer.gov.py Antigua and Barbuda: Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender: http://www.education.gov.ag/

6.3 Promising experiences in relation to the theme of punishment of violence against women and/or gender

Sub region	Andean
Country	Ecuador
Theme	Punishment
Promising experience	Creation of specialized units on violence against women and/or gender in the justice and security sectors, with national and subnational scope and development of actionable protocols in the judicial field.
Description	The Judicial Organic Code, adopted in 2009, creates Specialized Justice Organs, Courts on Violence against Women and Family, courts of contravention and the family and family, women, children and youth courts, which replace the Women and Family Commissions. The Judicial Council in 2013 created 29 Judicial Units on Violence Against Women and the Family, in 24 districts of the 19 provinces in the country, and in February 2014 puts into operation a new unit, making the total number 30. These specialized judicial units are composed of 79 judges with district jurisdiction and decentralized operation in the territorial constituency. The rest of the districts of the country have established a territorial coverage by judicial surrogacy, in accordance to the provisions of COIP, so that where there are no specialized violence courts, have the jurisdiction to address the Judicial Units of the Family, Women and Children, the misdemeanour and multi-jurisdictional units. The Ecuadorian Justice System has several "Protocols for Judicial management, performance and expert valuation in cases of violence against women or nuclear family members", adopted by the Judicial Council in order to guide the performance of all judicial units with jurisdiction to address this type of violence. In the Attorney General's Office, it is working to build processes of assistance in comprehensive technical assessments, to shorten the time of the process and get to know the vast number of records, in order to avoid impunity. This institution has created specialized units on gender violence, which include addressing crimes of intrafamily violence, sexual offenses, trafficking, pornography and sexual exploitation. Additionally, the Ecuadorian State has a National Protection System for Victims and Witnesses working with a network of public and private institutions.
More information	Ministry of Justice: www.justicia.gob.ec

Sub region	Central America
Country	Guatemala
Theme	Punishment
Promising experience	Creation of specialized units to address femicide in the justice sector with a national and departmental scope.
Description	In order to access justice to the victims/survivors, Criminal Courts of First Instance for Crimes of Femicide and other forms of Violence against Women and the Criminal Court for Femicide Offenses and other forms of Violence against Women, were created in several departments of Guatemala. Likewise, created the Justice Centre for Femicide Crimes and other forms of Violence against Women, which harbours the specialized judiciary in this field. The Supreme Court of Justice, created the Chamber of Court of Appeals on Femicide Crimes and other Forms of Violence Against Women, which only meets on second instance cases that are referred by the Court. To combat impunity on femicide, and other forms of violence against women, the Guatemalan State created the Criminal Courts of First Instance for Femicide Crimes and other forms of Violence against Women in the Departments of Guatemala, Chiquimula, Quetzaltenango, which came into operation on 24th February 2010 (Agreement 1-2010). The President of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), created the Chamber of the Court of Appeal on Crimes of Femicide and other forms of violence against Women, which will give second instance hearings to cases referred by the Court in the same field. The personnel that make up this judiciary have been sensitized and trained to give comprehensive and specialized attention, just at that which is currently provided in the Courts and Specialized Tribunals. The Institute of Public Defence (IDPP), in accordance with articles 19 and 21 of the law on this matter, in the work developed through the Programme of Free Legal Aid to Women Victims of Violence and their families, are working to increase awareness on violence against women. In this respect, have addressed the requirements of free legal assistance and culturally relevant from its establishment, in more than 54,383 cases in different legal areas and claims of different rights, among which 44,480 have been fully completed, representing 84% of the total number of cases. By 2015 the Guatemalan

Sub region	Latin America
Country	Guatemala
Theme	Redress
Promising experience	Creation of specialized units to address femicide in the justice sector with a national and departmental scope.
Description	In order to access justice to the victims/survivors, Criminal Courts of First Instance for Crimes of Femicide and other forms of Violence against Women and the Criminal Court for Femicide Offenses and other forms of Violence against Women, were created in several departments of Guatemala. Likewise, created the Justice Centre for Femicide Crimes and other forms of Violence against Women, which harbours the specialized judiciary in this field. The Supreme Court of Justice, created the Chamber of Court of Appeals on Femicide Crimes and other Forms of Violence Against Women, which only meets on second instance cases that are referred by the Court. To combat impunity on femicide, and other forms of violence against women, the Guatemalan State created the Criminal Courts of First Instance for Femicide Crimes and other forms of Violence against Women in the Departments of Guatemala, Chiquimula, Quetzaltenango, which came into operation on 24th February 2010 (Agreement 1-2010). The President of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), created the Chamber of the Court of Appeal on Crimes of Femicide and other forms of violence against Women, which will give second instance hearings to cases referred by the Court in the same field. The personnel that make up this judiciary have been sensitized and trained to give comprehensive and specialized attention, just at that which is currently provided in the Courts and Specialized Tribunals. The Institute of Public Defence (IDPP), in accordance with articles 19 and 21 of the law on this matter, in the work developed through the Programme of Free Legal Aid to Women Victims of Violence and their families, are working to increase awareness on violence against women. In this respect, have addressed the requirements of free legal assistance and culturally relevant from its establishment, in more than 54,383 cases in different legal areas and claims of different rights, among which 44,480 have been fully completed, representing 84% of the total number of cases. By 2015 the Guatemalan
More information	Ministerio de Justicia: www.oj.gob.gt

6.4 Promising experiences in relation to the theme of redress of violence against women and/or gender

Sub regions	Andean, Southern Cone and Anglophone Caribbean
Countries	Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia and Saint Lucia
Theme	Redress
Promising experience	Implementation of measures aimed at economic empowerment and social labour integration of the victims/survivors of violence against women with the aim of providing redress for the rights violated.
Description	Chile: Development and implementation of the Protocol for Preferential Access to Housing for the Victims/Survivors of Violence in a joint way between the National Service for Women and the Ministry of Housing an Urbanization. Uruguay: Since the adoption of Law Nº 18.850 of 2011, the Uruguayan State granted a non contributory pension and a special family allowance to children orphaned as a consequence of domestic violence. The beneficiaries should fulfil certain conditions such as age, marital status and sufficient economic support. The Social Security Bank administers these benefits.

Bolivia: The Ministry of Justice in coordination with the Ministry of Works, Employment and Social Security have come together to sign a Ministerial Resolution on tolerance and flexibility of work schedules for victims/survivors and who have submitted a complaint. Through this resolution, the victims can attend the proceedings, inquire about the status of their proceedings, receive medical treatment or therapy, psychological or any other following the violent situation, provided for in art. 16° of Supreme Decree 2145.

Bolivia: The Bolivian State implemented the Programme of Productive Heritage SEED: "Empowerment – Economic Independence and Citizenship for Women" which gives women victims/survivors of violence economic or heritage the necessary conditions to start productive enterprises (trainings, economic support, technical assistance, etc.). In 2011 the SEED Programme reached 3,753 women in 18 municipalities of the country of which 68% received financial services and technical assistance.

Bolivia: The Deputy Minister for Equal Opportunities, in compliance with PIO has undertaken a series of actions to address gender-based violence seeking to ensure coordination with the National Programme to Combat Gender Based Violence (2009 – 2020), taking into account the four fundamental pillars. In the economic, productive and work environment, promoted the exercise of labour rights of women and access to decent work, access to production resources, to natural resources and to basic services, redistribution of tasks regarding child care and protection in the family between men and women within a homestead and between families and the State. In the education realm, the plan includes policies oriented to the eradication of female illiteracy, increasing opportunities for access and retention of girls, adolescents and youth in the formal education system, incorporating the gender perspective in the education revolution and opening opportunities for education, training, capacity building and professionalization of women in all spheres. To improve the health of women, increased the coverage of health services and promoted the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights of women, in the framework of full recognition of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the country.

Colombia: To strengthen the protection of women victims of violence in Colombia two decrees were passed, which regulated tax deduction for employers, who hired victims/survivors and adopted measures to guarantee their housing, feeding and transportation. Decrees 2733 and 2734 are part of regulation of Act 1257 of 2008 and complement other four decrees in the area of health, employment, education and justice, issued in December 2011. The first decree, 2733, regulates tax exemption to business linked with women victims of violence in aspects such as health, housing and transport benefits. Meanwhile, decree 2734 regulates the means of transport, feeding and housing for women at risk. Decree 2733 establishes the necessary requirements to effect tax deductions spelled out in Act 1257 of 2008. The gender violence situation is confirmed through judgements passed in respect to domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment or physical injury, whose victim is a woman employee. The amount of deduction is 200% the value of salaries and social benefits paid during the taxable year or period from the start of the employment relationship and for a maximum period of three years, if this is maintained. Meanwhile, Decree 2734 of 2012 establishes criteria, conditions and procedures for granting measures for consideration under the health, justice and defence sectors, in this case, the National Police, in accordance with Act 1257 of 2008 and the regulatory decrees 4796 and 4799 of 2011. The measures for consideration include temporary housing, feeding and transportation services which will be granted by administrative and judicial authorities such as the Family Commissions in cases of domestic violence or the Judge to Control Safeguards for situations of violence in environments other than the family setting (Source: www.uradecristal.gov.co)

St. Lucia: The Department of Gender Relations under the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services, and Gender Relations and the St. Lucia Rural Women's Network promote economic empowerment of rural women's groups victims/survivors of gender violence by providing work opportunities in agriculture and processing of agricultural products (agro processing).

Chile: SERNAM: www.sernam.cl

Uruguay: INMUJERES: www.inmujeres.gub.uy/

Bolivia: Ministry of Justice: www.justicia.gob.bo/

Colombia: <http://www.uradecristal.gov.co/gestion-gobierno/mujeres-v-ctimas-de-violencia-en-pa-s-no-est-n-desamparadas>

St. Lucia: [www.unifemcar.org/
www.ngocaribbean.org/index.php/st-lucia-crisis-centre/](http://www.unifemcar.org/www.ngocaribbean.org/index.php/st-lucia-crisis-centre/)

Más información

Source: Prepared by the authors from the consulted sources.



7. Challenges and opportunities to implement policies to end violence against women

Violence against women is a serious violation of human rights, with negative consequences for women, their families and environments, and the surrounding community, constituting a hindrance to the recognition and full enjoyment of all their human rights, including respect for their life and their physical, psychological and moral integrity (Convention of *Belém do Pará*). Although 32 of the 33 countries in the region have signed and ratified the Convention of *Belém do Pará*, its implementation is very uneven. Research has indicated that 24 of the 33 countries (73%) of the region exclusively rely on 'first generation' laws (among which are all the Caribbean countries) which protect the rights of victims/survivors only with respect to domestic violence and/or intrafamily violence and 9 of the 33 (27%) have enacted 'second generation' laws that classify a range of expressions of violence against women in both the public and private domain. Some countries have framed in their legislation the new contexts of criminality, such as drug trafficking or cyber crime and even 'new' expressions such as violence against women in the context of armed conflicts, political violence or the crimes committed through acid attacks, among many others, and 16 countries have already criminalized the act of femicide or feminicide.

However, a law that is not regulated is a form of veto and a 'silent' way of exercising violence by the State, this time by default, the State violates the principles established by the rights and guarantees which cannot be denied nor limited by default or failure to regulate; and these cannot be severed, with the added effect that this omission additionally implies blockage to legislative will. In this regard, besides promoting reforms of the normative frameworks, the Convention of *Belém do Pará* encourages States Parties to adopt, by all possible means, and without delays, policies that are oriented to the prevention, punishment and ending of violence against women (Chapter III, Article 8°). To

fulfil this mandate, the States signatories to the Convention of *Belém do Pará* have formulated public policies and/or national plans to prevent, punish and end violence against women, with admittedly various nuances in the region. In this context, the study has identified 5 groups of countries in accordance with the type of violence that the policy or national action plan addresses: a) *Specific* national action plans on violence against women; b) National action plans on domestic violence; c) National action plans on gender violence; d) Policies or national plans that include a specific component to address violence against women and e) Countries without a national action plan on violence against women and/or gender.

The good news is: between 2013 and 2016, i.e. in just three years, the region grew from 24 countries (74%) having policies and/or national plans, regardless of whether they were specific to addressing violence against women, to 31, representing 94% of the region. There is also an observable increment in the number of countries that have officially approved *specific* national action plans on violence against women, from 9 countries in 2013 to 15 in 2016, i.e. 66% more than in 2013. The most important data relates to the number of countries without a national action plan, regardless of the type. In 2013 the number of countries in this situation represented almost 30% of the total, whereas in 2016 this percentage has reduced to 6%, which implies a reduction of almost 80%. In 8 of the 33 countries have formulated national action plans to address gender violence (24%), all from the Anglophone Caribbean, and in 6 of the 33 countries (18%) the action strategies to address violence against women and/or gender form part of a component integrated into the national policy or the national plan for gender, equality and gender equality or equal opportunities. Only 2 of the 33 countries (6%) do not have officially approved national action plans to address vio-

lence against women and/or gender, both from the Anglophone Caribbean. Finally, with regard to the consistency between legal instruments and public policies, in 14 of the 31 countries in the region that have a national action plan (regardless of the type) there is observable consistency (45%) whereas in 17 of the 31 countries (55%), i.e. slightly more than half the cases, there is need to harmonize legislation and public policies to achieve the consistency between the two instruments. In any case, it should be noted that such harmonization is not always guaranteed, as is the case of Costa Rica where there is support in not promoting changes in the femicide law, despite its limitations, because opening this debate has a high risk of undermining the achievements made.

However, despite the enumerated progress, the States in the region continue to face some of the critical issues that were observed in 2013. Let us review them.

Critical issue 1: Need to strengthen the political leadership of the Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in the countries of the region

It has already been widely reported that in order to reverse the growth of violence against women, States must be present and be strong, that is to say, there is need for effective and efficient governance. To do this, Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women should have sufficient leadership that will enable them to achieve political agreements; to negotiate more budgetary resources; and to address patriarchal and violent cultural resistances that are anchored in the structures of the State. The responsibility to implement effective legislation and policies on violence against women does not only lie with the mechanism for the advancement of women, but a higher institutional hierarchy of such a mechanism without doubt helps articulate sectoral responses to the subject matter for the various institutions. The situation is particularly serious among Caribbean countries, especially the Anglophone Caribbean, which represents the majority of MAW with low institutional hierarchy. As we noted in the study, there is a statistically significant correlation between the low institutional hierarchy of the MAW of the Caribbean, its limited institutional capacity and the absence of interinstitutional coordination mechanisms to address violence against women in a coordinated way, in addition to public policies that bear no consistency with legislative instruments, many of which are suspended in time.

The regional experience shows that states with strengthened MAW have created interinstitutional coordination mechanisms which are integrated by organizations with high level institutional hierarchy, which has enabled them to have strategic allies to expeditiously approve laws and policies and/or national plans; strengthen the gender institutional frameworks; and open dialogue channels with civil society, specifically with women organizations, to identify their needs, share best practices, innovative ideas, listen to their proposals and establish durable links to transform their demands into effective responses.

Critical issue 2: Inadequate budgetary resources to implement policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender

One of the major obstacles identified in 2013 referred to the insufficient allocation of budgetary resources for the formulation and implementation of policies and/or national plans and for the drafting of laws. With little information on budgetary matters from the official sources in 2013, conclusions

were drawn that countries in the region did not have specific budget items to address violence against women, a situation that was made worse considering the reduced budgetary allocations to the MAW, where the information was made available. Unfortunately, the picture has not changed since 2013: information is still very scarce, sources of funding for the implementation of policies and/or plans to address violence against women are still the scarce public allocations to the (MAW) governing bodies or, in some isolated cases, to the organizations participating in the critical path. The vast majority of countries in the region do not allocate specific public resources for the implementation of policies and/or national plans to address violence against women. Another bottleneck is related to poor coordination among donors and the impact of their investments in the field, which are based on foreign policy priorities and not on the main needs of women and girls.

This study has recognized at least two promising experiences in the field of public allocation of resources to combat the scourge. The first corresponds to Mexico, where the resources for implementing the National Development Plan (2013 – 2018) are contemplated in the Budgetary Expenditure of the Federation. The 2015 fiscal Budget includes budgetary programmes in the different departments and areas of Federal Public Administration, which are evaluated and measured by their contribution to gender equality. The second promising practice corresponds to the Plurinational State of Bolivia where Act N° 348 determines the roles of the different bodies and institutions that participate in its implementation and should modify their budgets and allocate specific funds for its implementation. Supreme Decree N° 2145, regulating comprehensive Act N° 348, allocates a percentage (30% for the first year and 10% from the second year) of the resources for Citizen Security of the Autonomous Departmental Governments for the construction and equipment

of houses and temporary shelters for women in situations of violence and the Autonomous Municipal Governments establish a percentage (between 25% and 30% depending on the number of people) to finance infrastructure equipment, maintenance and care of the Comprehensive Municipal Legal Services to address violence against women.

Critical Issue 3: Weakness in the continuity of policies and/or national plans and fragmented institutional response

Besides the lack of budget, the MAW suffer from a high rate of rotation of the authorities in charge, which has a negative effect on the continuity and sustainability of the policies and programmes. In this regard, it is advisable to initiate a thorough debate in the social and parliamentary realms so that the fight against violence toward women is not only a policy for the government in power, variable in accordance with the political platform and the official ideological profile, but rather, following the example of Ecuador, that should be elevated to state policy with a constitutional status. In this respect, the goal of eradicating violence against women should be independent of political change, having to adapt to the social demands of the times, always forming part of the agenda under the leadership of the MAWs and with the support of all government sectors⁴⁷, which are jointly responsible for the design and implementation of public policies aimed at eliminating the scourge. On the other hand, while some countries in the region have made progress in the enactment of second-generation laws, there are still many countries that have not enacted laws that criminalize the various expressions of violence against women both in the private and public domain from a comprehensive and inclusive perspective. In this regard, countries in the region should redouble efforts to influence legislators/state of-

ficials, lawyers and the media to build legislative agendas adapted to new contexts of criminality and with special emphasis on the needs and specific requirements of women in situations of high social vulnerability: indigenous women, afrodescendant women, women from ethnic and religious minorities, girls and adolescents, adult and elderly women, women living with HIV/AIDS, migrant women or refugees, lesbians, transsexuals and transgender women, among others. This transition is possible but should challenge the most conservative and resistant groups to change. Therefore, it is important to have political and social allies and take advantage of “the windows of opportunity” opened in periods of progressive governments and with majority parliamentarians in favour of change to line-up the reformist proposals.

Critical issue 4: Information systems and measurement of violence against women

Another serious problem in the region is the lack of reliable, systematic and periodic measurement of the prevalence and incidence of violence against women. Specialized surveys to measure violence against women are not sufficiently used in the region, with exceptions in some countries, as has been mentioned in the identified promising practices, and this is mainly due to their high cost, although it is one of the most effective and reliable methods of measurement. But the problem is not only the cost, but also rather the fact that measuring violence against women does not form part of the functions and responsibilities of the National Institutes of Statistics, which are responsible for collecting information at the national level. In this regard, the use of *Guidelines to produce statistics on violence against women: Statistical surveys (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, 2014)* and the intersectoral work with National Statistics Institutions to advance in this field should be strengthened.

There are no serious possibilities of designing public policies or proposing legislative projects that correspond to the needs of society if they do not have reliable statistical data. Alternatively, countries in the region use administrative records. However, these do not measure the incidence of violence against women and therefore do not allow us to know the real extent of the problem because the data it collects for each service corresponds to certain needs, institutional objectives and specific competencies, among other disadvantages. To counteract the current weakness in the measurement systems, some countries have advanced the incorporation of a specific module on violence against women in other reception surveys, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), citizen security, victimization, etc., a minor cost in comparison to the specialized surveys (Mexico and Ecuador). Additionally, some countries take advantage of the administrative records through rigorous statistical procedures such as records based surveys (Argentina).

A practical promising example in this field is that of Ecuador. One of the objectives of the National Plan for Eradicating Gender Violence toward Children, Youth and Women is to “Systematically develop qualitative information (...) which facilitates counting and providing reliable data to public and private institutions for the design and implementation of policies (...)”. To achieve this objective, in 2012, different state sectors participated in the design and implementation of the National Survey on Family Relations and Gender based Violence against Women, a specialized survey for measuring violence against women, whose precursor is the Demographic and Maternal and Infant Health Survey, carried out in 2004 by the Centre for Population and Social Development (CEPAR acronym in Spanish) and locally known by the acronym ENDEMAIN⁴⁸. The other promising practice is that of Peru through the creation of the Criminal Observatory of the Public Ministry

– National Prosecutor of Peru (See section 6.4 Promising experiences of redress for violence against women and/or gender).

Critical issue 5: Persistence of patriarchal cultural patterns that normalize violence against women

Finally, the region continues to suffer from the persistence of patriarchal cultural patterns, which are founded on relationships of inequality and inequity between men and women, historically rooted in traditions, customs, religions, mandates, belief systems and symbolic constructions, among other factors. In the political field, the patriarchal system responds to “taking power” historically by men, who have impacted the management of public policies that address gender issues in general and violence against women in particular. There is consensus built between key informants of MAW in the countries with whom dialogue has been established, there prevail “feelings of indifference” on the part of the political leaders who downplay the importance of gender demands and do not incorporate them in the political agenda. This invisibility to the phenomenon of violence against women has one undesired effect: it normalizes it. A clear indicator of this situation is the low budgetary resource allocation to finance the mandate of MAW, as mentioned above. In this regard, there is still need for a serious debate in the region from the States and civil society around the need for social transformation to seriously address the scourge of violence against women and its relation to the universal rights and non-discrimination.

There is consensus among officials interviewed both in 2013 and in 2016 that the key to creating the social conditions for a life free of violence against women lies in education and deepening the theme of prevention, that includes working with men and children to prevent violence against women, as proposed by the MDGs 2016. As evidenced, there are promising experiences from the countries of the region on the theme of prevention, such as the design of educational programmes to transform patriarchal cultural patterns and sexist stereotypes; adaptations of curriculum content, images, symbols and sexist and discriminatory messages that promote violence against women in books and texts and in teaching materials, prevention campaigns, sensitization, dissemination, advocacy, awareness and/or dissemination on violence against women by seeking to include in the messages the traditionally excluded groups of women and in some countries translated to the indigenous languages (Honduras, Guatemala, Paraguay), adopting intercultural, equality and gender equity and non discriminatory approaches. However, in line with what was stated in the recent regional report from UN Women and UNICEF on prevention of violence against women and girls in the educational context, additional effort is needed, in the field of legislative harmonization, educational policies, specific educational strategies, protective and punishment measures, research, statistics and evaluation, as well as strengthening interinstitutional and intersector coordination⁴⁹.

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48. ENDEMAIN is part of the comparative study carried out by PAHO and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States. “Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Comparative analysis of population data of 12 countries”. Washington, DC. PAHO, 2014.

49. *Prevention of violence against women and girls in the educational context. Promissory practices in 14 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Working document.* United Nations Secretary General's Campaign to End Violence against Women. UN Women, UNICEF. 2015.

It is therefore important to advance strategies aimed at breaking the resistance of conservative social groups and that the MAW participate in parliamentary commissions to influence legislation on traditionally invisible issues. For this purpose it is important that the MAW technical teams together with the “allies for change” create a map of social organizations and public state and non state actors resistant to change; formulate proposals based on convincing arguments to influence the most resistant actors, such as costs of violence *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Regional Programme ComVoMujer and United Nations Global Pact Network in Paraguay and UNDP, 2015 in Promising experiences in section 6.1 Promising experiences in relation to the theme of prevention of violence against women and/or gender*); design and implement actions aimed at raising awareness to conservative groups to legitimize their speeches; and open spaces for dialogue to “unveil” those who hide behind positions founded on inequality and discrimination who have naturalized violence against women in the countries of the region.



8. Bibliography

8.1. Policies and/or national plans to address violence against women and/or gender consulted by country

Country	Policy and/or national plan to address violence against women and/ gender
Haiti	Second National Plan to Combat Violence against Women (2012-2016) <i>(Plan National de lutte contre la violence faite aux femmes 2012-2016)</i>
Dominican Republic	a) II National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity (PLANEG II) (2006-2016) b) Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Detection, Care and Punishment of Violence against Women and Intrafamily Violence (2011-2016)
Costa Rica	National Plan for Care and Prevention of Violence against Women in Spousal Relationships and Families for Sexual Harassment and Rape (PLANOVI Mujer 2010-2015)
El Salvador	a) National Policy for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015) b) Action Plan of the National Policy for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015)
Guatemala	National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (PLANOVI) (2004-2014)
Honduras	National Plan to Combat Violence against Women (2013-2022)
Mexico	a) National Development Plan (2007-2012) b) Comprehensive Programme for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (2010-2012) c) National Development Plan (2013-2018) d) National Programme for Equal Opportunities and Non Discrimination against Women (2013-2018) e) Comprehensive Programme for the Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (2014-2018) f) National Programme for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Offenses in Human Trafficking and the Protection and Assistance to the Victims of these Crimes (2014-2018) i) National Human Rights Programme (2013-2018) National Policy to Prevent, Care, Punish and End Violence against Women
Argentina	National Action Plan for the Prevention, Care and Eradication of Violence against Women (2014-2016)
Brazil	a) Second National Pact to Address Violence against Women (2012-2015) b) Programme Women Live Without Violence (Mulher, Viver sem Violência)
Chile	National Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2012-2013) National Action Plan on Violence against Women (2014-2018)
Colombia	a) National Public Policy on Gender Equity b) Comprehensive Plan to Guarantee Women a Life Free of Violence (CONPES 161) (2012-2022)
Ecuador	National Plan for the Eradication of Gender Violence towards Children, Youth and Women (2008)
Peru	a) National Development Plan (2013-2018) b) National Policy for Prevention, Care, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (2009-2015)
Nicaragua	a) National Policy for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015) b) National Action Plan for the National Policy for Women to Access a Life Free of Violence (2014-2015) c) National Action Plan against Violence toward Women, Children and Youth.
Antigua and Barbuda	Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2010-2015)
Bahamas	The Bahamas National Strategic Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence
Jamaica	a) National Policy for Gender Equality (2011-2015) b) National Development Plan (2009-2030) c) National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica (2011)

Country	Policy and/or national plan to address violence against women and/ gender
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (2015-2018)
Grenada	The National Strategic Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in Grenada – Key Elements.
Belize	Second National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (2010-2013)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	The Multisector Action Plan on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2011).
Guyana	National Policy on Domestic Violence (2008-2013) National Action Plan for the Implementation of Laws of Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence (2014-2017) in the process of formulation and/ official approval.
Panama	a) National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Policies for Citizen Coexistence (2004-2014) b) National Plan Against Domestic Violence and Policies for Citizen Coexistence (2014-2024) in the formulation process.
Uruguay	a) National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2004-2010) b) Second National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2016-2021) in the formulation process
Suriname	a) Integrated Gender Action Plan (2006-2010) b) Legal Protection and Security Plan (2006-2010) National Policy Plan Structural Approach Domestic Violence (2014-2017)
Dominica	National Policy and Action Plan on Gender Equity and Equality
Cuba	National Action Plan to Follow-up on the IV UN Conference on Women (PAN)
Paraguay	a) Plan for Equal Opportunity between Men and Women (2008-2017) b) Policy "Paraguay for All: Public Policy Proposal for Social Development (2010-2020)" c) National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2009-2013) d) National Programme for the Prevention and Comprehensive Care of Women, Children and Youth in Situations of Gender Based Violence, Domestic and Intrafamily (2010-2015) e) National Development Plan "Paraguay 2030"
Plur. State of Bolivia	a) National Programme to Combat Gender Based Violence (2009-2020) b) National Plan for Equal Opportunities: 'Women Building the New Bolivia to Live Well' (2009-2020) c) National Plan against Violence toward Women (2013-2022)
Bol. Rep. of Venezuela	National Socialist Plan for the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence (2010-2013) Plan for Gender Equality "Mamá Rosa" (2013-2019)
Barbados	National Action Plan against HIV/AIDS (2008-2013).

Note: For the legal instruments consulted in each country, see Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 *ut supra*

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Argentina	National Council for Women	www.cnm.gov.ar
Bahamas	Bureau of Gender Affairs	www.bahamas.gov.bs
Barbados	Bureau of Gender Affairs	www.socialcare.gov.bb
Belize	Women's Department	www.humandevlopment.gov.bz
Bolivia	Ministry of Justice. Deputy Ministry for Equal Opportunity	www.justicia.gob.bo/
Brazil	Ministry of Women, Racial Equality and Human Rights (<i>Ministério das Mulheres, da Igualdade Racial e dos Direitos Humanos</i>)	www.gov.br
Colombia	Presidential Adviser on Equality for Women	
Costa Rica	National Institute for Women	www.equidadmujer.gov.co/
Cuba	Federation of Cuban Women	www.inamu.go.cr/
Chile	National Women's Service	www.ecured.cu
Dominica	Bureau of Gender Affairs	www.semam.gob.cl
Ecuador	National Council for Gender Equality	www.socialservices.gov.dm
El Salvador	Salvadorian Institute for Women Development	www.igualdadgenero.gob.ec
Grenada	Division of Gender and Family Affairs	www.isdemu.gob.sv
Guatemala	Presidential Secretariat for Women	www.gov.gd/ministries/social_development.html
Guyana	Bureau for Women's Affairs	www.seprem.gob.gt
Haiti	Ministry of Women and Women's Rights (<i>Ministère à la Condition Féminine et aux Droits des Femmes</i>)	www.mihss.gov.gy/
Honduras	National Institute for Women	www.mcdfh.ht
Jamaica	Bureau of Women's Affairs	www.inam.gob.hn
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Panama	National Institute for Women	www.minim.gob.ni
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Peru	Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations	www.mujer.gov.py
Dominican Republic	Ministry of Women	www.mimp.gob.pe
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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Department of Gender Affairs	www.stkittsnevis.gov.kn
Saint Lucia	Department of Gender Relations	www.mobilization.gov.vc
Suriname	National Bureau for Gender	www.health.govt.lc
Trinidad and Tobago	Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development	http://www.gov.sr/
Uruguay	National Institute for Women (INMUJERES)	www.mgycd.gov.uy/
Venezuela	Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality	www.inmujeres.gub.uy/
		www.minmujer.gov.ve/



UNDP partners with people, at all levels of societies, to help building nations that can withstand crises, boost and sustain growth to improve the quality of life for all. We offer a global perspective and local knowledge on the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, to help empower lives and build resilient nations

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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